

**MILWAUKEE TO GET  
FIRST RACE FIREMAN**

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — (ANP) — Milwaukee will have its first Negro fireman, Fire Chief Edward Wischar told the fire and police commission last week. Out of a list of 38 eligibles William Curry, 26, ranked 16th on the civil service list. Curry has attended Milwaukee State Teachers college and has taken three years of pre-law study at the University of Wisconsin.

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Firemen (D.C.)

# Murphy Still Undecided on Segregation in Firemen's Ranks

## 'Integration' Idea

### Not New to City,

#### Chief Declares

*Washington Post*  
I have not made up my mind

whether segregation of Negro and white firemen should be continued, Fire Chief Clement Murphy told The Washington Post last night.

The idea of "integrating" Negroes in white fire companies is not new in Washington, however, he said. "We had it prior to 1919, during my early days in the department," he pointed out. "It's not fair to the taxpayers," he added, to have "about 56" Negroes in the department assigned to two companies when other companies operate with 16 men.



CHIEF MURPHY

Explains stand

Murphy said he was "criticized" for including two Negro captains in an order last year that all captains who had more than one year's experience be given an opportunity to serve "in turn" as acting battalion chiefs.

"I couldn't say that all would have equal opportunity except Negroes, or Presbyterians, or Catholics," he declared.

The union, in its resolution, said "these colored captains when acting battalion chiefs are in charge of white companies and command white officers and men."

Murphy said Negroes had been commanding white firemen here "since 1919." If two companies—one Negro and one white—respond to the same call and the Negro company is commanded by a captain and the white company by a lieutenant, the Negro would automatically command all, he explained.

"That's because he's senior and the responsible officer under the regulations," he said.

Murphy said he doubted the union's claim that "many white firemen would resign their positions under integration. When white men join the department, there is no stipulation that they would not work with colored," he declared. The union's resolution also urged "that the two colored captains not be allowed to act as battalion chiefs until they have earned the right to do so in competition with white captains."

#### Choice on Merit Provided

This is now being done, Murphy revealed. A special board of two deputy chiefs and the fire marshal will select, on a merit basis, 14 of the 50 captains who have taken turns under the order to be permanent acting battalion chiefs.

Murphy said Negro firemen now are serving in the administrative offices, as inspectors in white theaters, and inspectors in white districts of the city.

Capt. Joseph W. Conroy, president of the union, has called special meetings at 8:30 a. m. and 8 p. m. today to give all members possible in both fire shifts a chance to voice opinions on the resolution. He said it wasn't proper for the union to be publicly committed to such an important stand when only 110 of its 600 members had voted on the resolution.

He said he had not decided that integration, rather than the formation of additional Negro companies, was the answer.

#### Vote Favors Segregation

Local No. 36, International Association of Fire Fighters, in a resolution voted by less than 20 percent of the union's 800-odd members, "implored" the Commissioners to continue the policy of segregation. The resolution, submitted to the Commissioners Friday, said "it is believed" that Murphy would "propose" or "indorse" integration.

"I know it's a serious matter," Murphy declared, "one that must be talked over carefully with the Commissioners." There are "a lot of angles" to the problem of integration that must be considered, he pointed out.

#### Ask Continuation

#### Of Jim Crow In

*Memphis World*  
D. C. Fire Dept.

*Memphis World*

WASHINGTON, D. C. (UNPA)

Captain Curtis E. McGhee, chairman of the "segregation committee" of Local 36 of the International Association of Fire Fighters (AFL), last Friday presented District of Columbia Commissioner John Russell Young a resolution "imploing" that segregation of colored and white firemen be continued in the District Fire Department.

The resolution said it was believed that Fire Chief Clement Murphy, who was absent on sick leave, "will propose and indorse integration" of white and colored men in the city's firehouse.

"The Chief engineer has deemed it fit and proper to make the (department's) two colored captains acting chiefs," the resolution said. "These two colored captains and all colored lieutenants and sergeants were appointed as such by courtesy of their color alone, never having placed high enough on a civil service promotional register to have been legally appointed to their present position or rank."

#### HIGHER COMMANDS

The resolution continued that "these colored captains, when acting battalion chiefs, are in charge of white officers and men. Under a policy of integration, all colored officers of white companies and white officers then would command white personnel, although many of the white subordinates placed higher than their colored superiors on Civil Service promotional register."

There now are fifty-two colored men in the Fire Department, segregated into two companies, Engine No. 4, commanded by Captain Joseph A. Briscoe, and Engine No. 27, commanded by Captain James F. Milles. Both had excellent reputations as efficient fire fighting units.

The regulation strength of a company is sixteen men. Both colored companies are over-manned. If white and colored firemen are not integrated it will be necessary to organize another Jim Crow company at once and still another in the near future. Four companies constitute a battalion and must have two battalion chiefs.



# Patrolman And Fireman Receive Valor Medals

*The New York Age*  
*N.Y.N.Y.*  
*5-20-48*  
Ptl. Charles S. Jones, of the West 123rd street police station, and Lt. Henry J. Herrmann, of Fire Engine Co. 7, were the first recipients of the gold medals for valor awarded by the Commerce and Industry Association of New York. They were honored at a luncheon held Monday at the Yale Club. The presentation was made to Ptl. Jones at City Hall ceremonies on Tuesday. Lt. Herrmann will receive his medal at City Hall on June 16th.

Ptl. Jones was honored for his heroic arrest of a holdup man after a pistol battle while off duty. Lt. Herrmann was cited for his spectacular single-handed rescue at a fire. *Dat. 5-21-48*



# Ask Race Cops In Montgomery

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — (ANP)

—Montgomery may have Negro policemen on the same basis as white ones - if they serve the "best interests" of the community to be served, county commissioners told Negro leaders this week.

The Commissioners gave this as part of their answer to several petitions asking for Negroes on the police force, better schools and roads and sewer and water facilities in their communities submitted by colored county leaders several weeks ago.

The county made promises and statements but took no positive action on the petitions. The board gave such answers as it had indicated its "wish and intention" or has "shown its desire and intention" to better various conditions in colored communities.

It also announced that segregation signs in public rest rooms would stay up. On the police question the commission said that from among equally qualified applicants "appointments will be made in those communities where it is felt the best interest of all citizens will be served without regard to color."

James Taylor, a special policeman, became the first Negro to be elevated to the rank of police sergeant in uniform of the St. Louis Metropolitan police last week.

He became the head of the first all-Negro platoon composed of 14 men. Assisted by newly-promoted Cpl. John Kennard, Sgt. Taylor will supervise his charges in a police scout car. The others are beat patrolmen.

11-12-19-48



# D. C. Officer Praised For Recognition Work

WASHINGTON, (D. C.)—(NNP)—Private Oliver A. Cowan, the colored policeman who has gained national recognition for his work among underprivileged kids, today is wearing a wrist-watch which came to him via the FBI from Hollywood.

Cowan was recently selected by the Hollywood radio commentator Jimmie Fiddler as the "citizen hero" of the "Americans in the News" feature of his program. For being the hero, Cowan was presented with a solid-gold watch valued "at \$225" and a \$50 savings bond.

The savings bond was donated by Officer Cowan to the current campaign for \$25,000 needed by the Cowan-founded Junior Police and Citizens' Corps, an organization dedicated to working among children which for the most part come from lower income homes. Donations alone and not dues from any of the 13,000 members support the organization's activities.

When the watch was sent to Washington, Director J. Edgar Hoover, of the FBI was asked to present it to Private Cowan. However, a native Washingtonian, readily consented.

A member of the D. C. Metropolitan Police Force, Officer Cowan has been assigned to full-time duty with the JPCC with headquarters at 720 Barry Place, N. W.

Cowan started the organization in 1942 when he caught a gang breaking streetlights. Rather than arrest the youngsters, he organized them into a Junior Police Force. These youngsters, and the thousands who later joined the organization, have, through the police officer's guidance and help, become better potential citizens. This fact has been recognized by many local and national organizations and Junior Police organizations are being contemplated for other cities throughout the nation.



**COPS DECORATED**—Police Inspector Floyd Truscott (left) awards medals to Pvt. John B. Kline (center) of First Precinct and Jesse Johnson of Second Precinct. The two were named Pouncen of the Month of July for their work in capturing a bandit suspect during a running gun battle.



# More Race Policemen Sought In Miami As Hoodlums Make Sections Of City Unsafe

MIAMI, Fla. (ANP) — The answer to Miami's mounting crime wave was in the making here last Saturday when 20 applicants, Negroes, were examined by officials of the police academy to help stem lawlessness which had caused a skelton force to buckle. During the past weeks, as few as two Negro patrolmen have been detailed to maintain order at night, in a community which has a Negro population of more than 40,000.

The depleted personnel of the Negro force meant the suspending of police for night clubs and other places where vice and corruption abound, and from where numerous arrests are being frequently made. Outlying districts known as Coconut Grove and Liberty City are entirely without police protection, and the lawless rule undisturbed.

A surprise raid in the latter named section two weeks ago netted the police more than 36 switch-blade knives and several fully-loaded revolvers. Forced entry into an assignation house resulted in eight couples being charged with immoral conduct.

A survey of the records at the Negro precinct station disclosed that beginning with Jan. 1, through May 31, arrests in succession for major crimes were January, 148; February, 196; March, 168; April, 200; and June, 183. On the night of the recent Louis-Walcott fight, there were 13 arrests within four hours time.

During the first five months of this year there have been 28 cases of armed robbery, 84 cases of long-armed robbery, 96 cases of larceny, 170 cases of peaking and entering, 181 cases of stabbings and 92 cases of beating.

The same period has witnessed two rape cases, 11 homicides, 24 shootings and numerous other misdemeanors. The dismissal of six Negro policemen within the past few months for alleged trivial offenses has provoked considerable disgust. However, the police now enjoy civil service status and need no longer fear promiscuous firing without subsequent redress.

It's a lead-pipe cinch now that Negroes will see jury service throughout Dade county, as the result of a recent protest waged by persons who charged that law enforcement officials were too lenient in the punishment of Ne-

## Policemen (Florida)

a warrant sworn out against the patrolman. Ransome joined the force in 1945.

### FLORIAN TOWN FIRES

#### NEGRO POLICE

DANIA, Fla. (ANP) — Negroes were wondering what next this town of Dania fired the last of its two Negro policemen, Arthur Edwards, last week. Patrolman Smitty was fired several weeks ago.

## Miami to Get 10 New Policemen

MIAMI, Fla. — The go sign for the employment of 10 additional colored policemen was given last week by the Miami City Commission.

Salaries totaling \$17,840 and \$1,408 for uniforms for the 10 new men were authorized. The appropriation was transferred from the contingent fund to cover the balance of the fiscal year ending June 30.

Five of the new men will be assigned to Coconut Grove, giving that area 24 hours police protection. The other five men will join the downtown police force.

## Negro Policemen In Miami A

### Great Success

BY DR. LEONARD F. MORSE

MIAMI, Fla. (G) — The experiment of having Negroes on the Miami police force has proven a big success. Starting in 1944 with only five men, the force now boasts of 20 Negroes.

They are full policemen, receiving the same salary as the white policemen. The Chief of Police is highly pleased with the services of these Negro police officers, who in the brief space of four years, reduced juvenile delinquency 60 per cent.

Jacksonville, Florida, Savannah and Atlanta, Georgia, have sent representatives to Miami to study the system employed there.

## Florida Town Gets Four Negro Policemen

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. —

(ANP) — Four Negroes with high school education or better have passed tests to become policemen in the colored district in West Palm Beach. Police Chief Truman Matthews announced here last week.

The new appointees are Alonzo Wilson, Dwight H. Bolen, Primus L. Greene and David T. Field.

The colored officers will replace whites in the Negro area. Chief

Matthews said:

"We need the four to police the colored section where I believe we should have colored officers do the work now being done by white officers."

## Inspector Who Championed Negro Policemen Succumbs

By JAMES B. LAFOURCHE

MIAMI — (ANP) — H. S. Redman, inspector of Miami's uniform police, who prided himself as being the foremost advocate in the use of Negro police throughout the south died here last week following an operation in an Orlando hospital.

The former inspector, a native Texan, was esteemed highly in police circles here, having served at one time as police chief of Miami Beach. The very center of his activity was confined to the development of the Negro police here in Miami, in whom he was highly pleased.

Less than a month ago, Mr. Redman was instrumental in the formation of classes at the boy's center here where Negro policemen under the teachings of Lt. O. W. Faircloth are being instructed in the art of police work as taught by the federal bureau of investigation.

When this writer interviewed Mr. Redman some weeks ago in his office, the inspector modestly accepted credit for having influenced police chiefs of nearby Florida cities and also of Atlanta and Savannah. No matter what you went to see Mr. Redman about, you had to talk with him about Negro police.

The files of Mr. Redman were kept accurately. He has a treasured album in which were the pictures of Negro policemen. He took delight in holding up a picture of a Negro police and admiring him in uniform.

Also in his album were copies of letters from police chiefs of many southern cities, wanting to know "how he did it?" Some weeks ago when a Negro police charged with a serious offense was brought before Mr. Redman for questioning, he freed the man, saying to this writer:

"I asked him to tell me the truth. He did, and I believed every word of what he said. I had to give him another chance."



# Negroes Ask Again For Appointment Of Negro Police

The request of a group of Negro citizens, delivered yesterday to city council, that Negro policemen be appointed to serve in Negro sections of Columbia is a reasonable request.

And it should be granted. The Negroes have logic on their side in this. They have the best interests of Columbia on their side.

The request was based on four grounds:

1. Negro policemen would reduce race tension and improve race relations. If a white policeman is compelled in making an arrest to use force and the victim is a Negro it can be blown up into a racial incident. If a Negro policeman used exactly the same force under the same circumstances in arresting a Negro there can be no racial angle involved. He would be simply a policeman making an arrest.

2. Negro policemen would provide greater safety for Negro school children by leading them across the street as white officers lead white children across the street, teaching them the lessons of safety on streets and highways.

3. Negro policemen would deter juvenile delinquency among the Negroes by bringing Negro children in contact with law enforcement officers of their own race and giving them a chance to build up a respect for instead of a fear of the law.

4. Negro policemen would be a step forward in the Negroes' attempt to educate for good citizenship, giving Negroes a greater pride in the development of Columbia.

There is, of course, nothing experimental now about the use of Negro officers in the South. As the Negro committee pointed out, some 200 Negro policemen are serving in Southern cities and most of these cities have found the decision to employ the Negro officers for duty in Negro sections was a wise decision, making for better law enforcement.

And Columbia might have and should have followed these precedents long ago. The Record has long been convinced that it is the part of wisdom in any Southern city with a large Negro population to include on the police force a sufficient number of Negro policemen.

It goes without saying that Mayor Frank C. Owens is right in pointing out that any Negroes employed will have to meet the civil service requirements. The Negroes should expect this. And it also goes without saying that the Negro policemen should be carefully selected and trained for the task they would be called upon to assume. "The first ones," as Mayor Owens said, "would naturally be on trial with Negroes, as well as the general public."

But all these conditions can be met as the experience of other Southern cities reveals. Columbia is now ready for the city council to act, if any action be necessary.

A TOTAL OF 43 Southern cities in 10 states have Negro policemen. The New Orleans Urban League revealed last week after a survey of the South. The Urban League's research found that of a total of 240 Negroes 25 are plain clothesmen, seven are police women and the rest are uniformed officers.

Three states have no Negro police officers. They are Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. Mobile, Ala., however, hires several "police porters" who go "on duty" at Negro homes and meetings. They have arrest powers and patrol the colored section at nights.

## TULSA'S NEGRO POLICE

### HELD 'INDISPENSIBLE'

Record Of Performance Equal To That Of White Officers

HAVE CAUSED NO TROUBLE

(Sixth of a Series)

One of the greatest benefits of negro police in Tulsa is the speedy solution of crimes among negroes.

"Our negro officers can obtain information about other negroes in a few minutes that it would take hours for a white officer to get, if he could get it at all," Police Chief J. W. (Bud) Hollinsworth reported.

Police Are Interviewed

Tulsa police officials were interviewed by Cleve Bullette of the Tulsa Tribune for information on their experiences with negro police for the series being conducted by The Commercial Appeal. The question of employing negro police in Memphis is being pressed by negro leaders, and The Commercial Appeal is reviewing experiences of other Southern cities with negro officers for the benefit of its readers.

In Tulsa, J. Fred Lawrence Jr., police commissioner, joined with Police Chief Hollinsworth, in saying: "Negro police officers are indispensable in Tulsa." Like other Southern cities, Tulsa uses negro officers in negro sections.

Tulsa has a negro population of about 30,000. It is a city of 194,000. It has 15 negro officers. Four of these work as plain clothes officers and one is a woman who handles sex and juvenile cases. One plain clothes detective holds the rank of sergeant.

Technical Men Aid

Mr. Bullette reports that all negro crimes, including rape, murder and extortion, are dealt with by negro officers. Only the technical men of the Police Department—fingerprint experts, photogra-

phers, lie detector operators and identification specialists—assist in the solution of major negro crimes in Tulsa.

Experience has proven to the Tulsa Police Department that colored officers are as dependable as white, Mr. Bullette said. They are, of course, carefully selected as to intelligence, background and character. Over a period of many years the negro officers have no greater record of infractions of regulations, venality or laxness than do the white officers.

Recently two negro officers were accused of accepting bribes from bootleggers, but the evidence was insufficient to justify their discharge. They were suspended briefly while authorities were investigating the case, but no charges ever were filed against them before the City Commission for removal from office.

Two years ago one of the more reliable negro detectives became involved in a political campaign and was found guilty of paying a negro newspaper to publish a particularly vicious attack on a candidate for sheriff. The police commissioner and police chief at that time filed charges against him for conduct unbecoming an officer, and he was dismissed. Two years later he was reinstated.

No Drinking Reported

There is no record, and no reports, of negro officers drinking on duty. This was true during a lax period in Tulsa when the white officers took advantage of an easy-going chief to drink while on duty.

The negro officers make no effort to protect their racial brothers who fall into the clutches of the law. They are no more prone to protect the better elements of their society from arrests than are white officers, Chief Hollinsworth told Mr. Bullette.

They are careful with their equipment, automobiles and uniforms. In Tulsa police officers are required to buy their own uniforms, and the negro officers are as neat and snappy appearing as the best of the white contingent.

"We would have a great deal more racial friction than we do if we had no negro officers," Commissioner Lawrence said. "They serve to dignify the colored race and law offenders do not have nearly the resentment on being arrested by them that they have when arrested by white officers."

Maintain Standard

As to making reports and keeping records, this depends on the individual officer. Two negro detectives can write as complete, detailed and logical reports as any white detective on the Tulsa department, Mr. Bullette said.

The negro officers' record of solutions for murders, burglaries, robberies by force, rapes and all crimes of a more serious type are on a par with white officers, the reporter

added. Currently Tulsa has three unsolved negro murders and five times as many unsolved white murders, making the ratio on a population basis about equal.

Misdemeanor offenses are high in the negro section of the city, creating a heavy volume of work for the colored officers. They take care of it capably, and on many days fully half of the 50 to 70 minor offenders filed in Municipal Court are negroes, arrested, booked and filed by negro officers.

(Tomorrow: Richmond's Experience With Negro Police).

## St. Louis Police Get 1st Uniformed Sergeant

ST. LOUIS (ANP)—James Taylor, a special policeman, who possesses a keen nose for crime and who has solved many mystery problems, became the first colored officer to be elevated to the rank of police sergeant in uniform of the metropolitan police here last week. He became the head of the first all-colored platoon composed of 14 men, on Wednesday night. Assisted by newly-promoted Cpl. John Kennard, Sergeant Taylor will supervise his charges in a police scout car. The others are beat patrolmen.

## NEGRO POLICE USEFUL, LITTLE ROCK REPORTS

'Can Serve A Good Purpose' Chief Potts Says

## RESTRICTIONS NECESSARY

(Fifth of a Series)

Negro police in Little Rock handle assignments in negro districts of that city that white officers are content to leave to them.

The Little Rock Police Department, according to Joe Wirges, veteran police reporter for the Arkansas Gazette, has six uniformed negro policemen.

Were Added In 1942

"They were added to the police force in 1942 over much opposition, principally among the white police, but after a few months they were gladly accepted," Mr. Wirges recalls. "It relieved the white officers from working among negroes in negro districts."

Little Rock is one of 51 cities in 10 Southern states which have negro police officers. And, like most of the other Southern cities, Little Rock limits the work of its negro officers to negro districts.

The Commercial Appeal is presenting this series to give its read-

ers the benefit of the experience of representative Southern cities with negro police. At this time, negro business and civic leaders in Memphis are requesting city officials to consider employment of negro police here.

Police Chief M. H. Potts of Little Rock told Mr. Wirges "the negro patrolmen can serve a good purpose."

"What he means," Mr. Wirges interpreted, "is that if a city has a district in which negroes are segregated, such as our West Ninth Street, they are good to have. This does not mean using them in districts where whites and negroes are mixed."

Crimes "Not Decreased"

The Gazette police reporter, who has held that position 31 years, said the presence of negro officers in negro districts in Little Rock has not decreased the usual brawls, crimes and other conflicts.

Several of the cities discussed in this series, including Miami, Louisville, Dallas and Nashville, reported negro officers had materially decreased criminal activities among negroes.

"I recall," Mr. Wirges said, "when I took up the work (of police reporting) in 1917, Little Rock had two negro officers assigned to the negro district. In the early 1920's one was shot and killed by a negro, and the other officer, who was old in years, was fired. The department had no negro member until early in 1940."

In Little Rock, negro officers report to police headquarters along with the white officers, but they never mix. They are called in by the lieutenant in charge of patrolmen and read the day's orders. Then they walk directly to the negro section. They report by telephone hourly.

A Good Investment

"Several of these negro officers have gone wrong," Mr. Wirges said, "but one can expect that, even among the whites. On the whole, though, I feel they are a good investment."

There have been occasions, the reporter said, when the negro patrolmen find a drunken white man in their districts, perhaps late at night or in the early morning. They pick up such stragglers and call the wagon. "They do not relish such instances," he added, "but so far there has been no trouble."



# Swallow This, Atlanta Constitution



Brown had to leave the south... where Democracy is lopsided... in order to render his country his best services. Compare him with some of the four "hayseed cop-pers" walking beats in Milligan and saying "dis an' dat."—Chick Solomon photo.



Here is Captain John T. Scott (retired) of the Chicago police department who was also born in TEXAS. He commanded the Stanton Avenue Station for four years, retiring recently on pension after over 20 years service. Under his command were 106 white officers and 46 colored. He was known as the "Czar of his District." He demanded and earned the respect of all of his subordinates. Had he stayed in TEXAS this city, Chicago, would have lost the services of an excellent law enforcer. Where lopsided Democracy prevails, law abiding citizens are the losers.

**HEADS, SECOND LARGEST POLICE DISTRICT.**—This is Acting-Captain George Blum, a veteran of the Chicago police department, who heads the second largest police district in the WORLD—the largest is Munich, Germany. Under his command are 416 white officers, ranking from patrolmen to lieutenants, and 96 colored officers. His district comprises four large Chicago wards in which many races live. He is shown in his office, the Fifth District Police station, 48th and Wabash Avenue, examining reports from his men. He does not have to "isolate" himself as if he had leprosy at the "Colored YMCA," as he would have had to do had he been born and lived in Atlanta, Georgia.—Photo by Gushiniere.

## Democracy In Action

Here is a good example for all white or Wiley College, TEXAS, southern cities to follow that have where he played football and is Negro policemen who are denied currently president of the Wiley College Club of New York. the power of arrest over white criminals. This is a story of Democracy in action; rewarding ability, efficiency and not just COLOR. This is James W. Brown who was assigned to duty with the 13th Division in as a Lieutenant in the assigned to duty with the 13th Division in New York City police department vision in Brooklyn. In defense of New York City, February 5, 1947. New York City police safety, he has on Wednesday, arrested men of all races during his career, many now in penitentiary. Lieut. Brown is a graduate, white and colored. But Lieut.



This is Captain Harry Deas who succeeded Capt. Scott as commander of the Stanton Avenue Station, where he now has both colored and white officers under his supervision. He was born in Tennessee, and learning early about its bogus Democracy, came to Chicago where he later became a patrolman. He has served over 20 years in the department and is regarded



## Negroes May Seek City Police, Fire Positions

Three Negroes today indicated that they would apply for jobs on the city police and fire departments. They obtained city civil service application blanks and papers from city hall this morning, then departed. Two of the men wished to apply for policemen's jobs, and the third said he would apply for a position in the fire department.

papers during the past month called for all applicants to file their papers at city hall not later than yesterday. Fire department applicants must be at least five feet, seven inches tall and weigh 140 pounds, and police applicants at least five feet nine inches tall and weigh 160 pounds. Age limits in both departments are 21 through 30 years.

## Indianola Hires Negro Policeman

Special To The Commercial Appeal  
INDIANOLA, Miss., Dec. 26.—Indianola lays claim to being the first small town in Mississippi to have a negro policeman. At the request of negro leaders in their section of town that they be given a policeman to operate only in their section, E. B. Copeland, city marshal, appointed Nathaniel Jacks. The appointment was approved by the mayor and board of aldermen. Jacks has been policing the negro district for a week now, and according to city officials in rendering good service.

The Negroes who obtained civil service papers today were the first to do so, city hall employees said. They will not be eligible for the civil service examinations which take place next Friday at 3 p. m., because they did not apply before the deadline of yesterday at 5 p. m. However, commission authorities pointed out, they will be eligible, if they meet with physical and mental qualifications, to take the examinations in late October or early November. A notice printed in local news-

and long on the form rendered them, determined to prove their hurtle.— In middle in this first hurtle.— by J. Richardson (World photo) Jones) Atlanta, Ga.



# Ruling Brings Defeat Of Racist Factions

By JOHN LEFLORE

ATLANTA, Ga.--Anti-Negro elements in this city suffered defeat Tuesday in their court battle to prevent the employment here of Negro policemen.

In a decision handed down by Fulton Superior Judge Bond Almond, the city was upheld in its plans to hire Negro police officers. The judge's ruling was given in a suit filed by G. Herbert Yarn, a white undertaker on the grounds that proposed special limitations upon Negro policemen would be unconstitutional.

## CITY POLICY UPHELD

In his decision, Judge Almond stated: "The charter of the City of Atlanta vests in its mayor and general council full and complete authority in the organization, management and operation of its Police Department."

He added: "There is nothing in the charter or the general laws of this state which authorizes this court to approve or disapprove any policy that its municipal government adopts in selecting the person-

nel of its police department."

## RACISTS INVOLVED

The suit was filed on Yarn's behalf by Vester M. Ownby, who secured the charter for the vicious anti-Negro, Jew-baiting Columbians, Inc.

Ownby contended that the city was attempting to perpetuate a fraud upon both the white and Negro people of Atlanta in its plan to employ Negro policemen.

## CHARGES ILLEGALITY

He argued that the move would be unconstitutional on the grounds that it would attempt to restrict Negro officers to certain areas, and deny them the right to arrest white persons.

The city announced plans to employ eight Negro policemen. A storm of opposition arose from the ranks of the Ku Klux Klan and Columbian-minded whites who, several months ago, presented themselves more than

1000-strong at a council hearing on what was then a mere proposal.

In dismissing the case last Tuesday Judge Almond ruled that court costs must be paid by Yarn.

## Police No Longer Novelty Bear Down On Disorders

By C. L. WEAVER

The job of policing is fast becoming a routine duty for Atlanta's eight Negro patrolmen as evidenced by the trend of duty performed by them in the Auburn avenue-Butler street vicinity Saturday.

The brilliant sunshine which greeted the "rookies" on their first tour of duty last week was conspicuous by its absence yesterday as they pounded their beats in murky weather which held a constant threat of cloudbursts.

The commanding officer of the eight-man division, Sgt. E. B. "Bevo" Brooks said a decided change from flagrant rowdiness was observed in the Auburn avenue vicinity yesterday.

He added that the novelty of the men on duty which attracted swelling crowds last Saturday had worn off considerably as the patrolmen were bearing down in the performance of their duty.

At 9 o'clock last night the precinct station reported that the patrolmen had made six arrests most of which involved drunkenness, disorderly conduct and stabbings.

30 Police Applicants  
Qualified For Exams  
Stated For Friday

City Personnel Director Carl T. Sutherland disclosed that thirty police applicants are qualified to take a police examination which is scheduled for next Friday night.

These applicants, the director said, were accepted for emergency purposes when it becomes necessary to replace or offer temporary substitution for the eight men now performing active duty.

By having such substitutes ready, replacements can be made without waiting, Mr. Sutherland related.

The examination is not to be misconstrued that additional Negro officers are being added to the force, he explained.

## Negro Police For Columbia

(From The Lighthouse And Informer)

Climaxing some six years of effort, Columbia's city council voted unanimously last Thursday to employ several Negro police officers, authorizing police chief L. J. Campbell to initiate the service.

Presumably, as in the many other southern cities now using this service, these officers will be limited to predominantly Negro sections of the city and their power of arrest will be limited when and if it becomes necessary to detain a white violator of the law.

We wish to be among those commending this far-sighted step by city council and, at the same time, say to Negroes that we hope their future conduct and cooperation with the divisions of law enforcement here will justify this action we have requested for several years.

The first officers ought to be men of the highest character and caliber. This is a necessity. Moreover, from the very beginning, they ought to have the fullest backing of the colored citizens. There will be a minority opposing the plan, which will seek to capitalize on any defects the appointments might sustain. It is our job to see that these are at a minimum.

Columbia now joins forces with some 50 odd other southern cities in ten southern states, all of whom find use of Negro police officers an aide to effective law enforcement agencies. Summerton, Clover and recently Conway have had fine experiences in South Carolina through colored officers. Columbia's should be nothing the less.

And we have the suspicion that many Negroes who have brought disgrace to the race through flagrant disregard of the law would do well now to mend their ways, or get ready to spend considerable time behind bars. We want a clean and progressive city. And that applies to Negroes, too.



## Sensible Ku Klux?

Prejudiced Atlantans who do not want Negro citizens hired as peace officers, threaten to attack the action of the city council on the ground that it is limiting the duty of the Negro police, whites are discriminated against. Thus we observe 1948 proof of the Biblical admonition, "The truth can belch from the bowels of iniquity." *Sat 1-17-48*

In its resolution providing for Negro policemen, the Atlanta council specifically states that these Negro officers must patrol the Negro section and they are authorized to arrest only Negroes. Murder, arson, rapine and insurrection may occur before the wide open eyes of the Negro officer, but if the law violator is white, the Negro officer must stand afar and allow evil and outlawery to have full sway. There shall be no black deterrent or justice that halts white violence and immorality in Atlanta.

Now the Ku Klux and the Columbians have entered court with a suit that has real meat in it. They allege in their petition to the court that it is discriminatory to whites forced to pay their tax funds into the hands of Negro officers who cannot enforce law among them. Never were there a more simon pure brand of hypocrisy and cant than this assertion, for it is the Ku Klux who fallow and nurse prejudice; and yet in making this back door attack on justice they expose prejudice and use it as a foundation upon which to stand and fight for their anti-social and un-American forms.

Most assuredly, white people are discriminated against when we establish a sink-hole of iniquity in community life where white criminals are exalted above the law. This is the weakest link in our social system, and no one secretly knows this more than the younger white generation who, when their parents are not around, talk of that section of the city where they may securely go to buy whiskey, dope, lottery tickets and engage in prostitution without fear of the law. We are not going to overlook sound reasoning even though it spews from the mouth of the devil. The white taxpayers of Atlanta are unquestionably defrauded and denied the equal protection of the law when Negro officers are denied the right to arrest some of the criminals who infest Atlanta. *Sat 1-17-48*

And then again, the Ku Klux raise another question regarding which we did not know they were informed. The Atlanta council said in their police resolution that the Negro patrolmen were to traverse only the Negro section. The Ku Klux in their petition aver there are no Negro sections in Atlanta. Whites and blacks live everywhere in the city, according to the argument of these arch dissemblers.

That does pose an ugly situation. The Negro officers working under such conditions are unquestionably going to observe a deal of white law violation. Aren't we stupid! Suppose a white man rapes a white girl, or a group of white racketeers machine-gun the section. That gang of outlaws and murderers can exit immediately from the scene while the Negro officer rushes to a telephone that returns him nothing more than a busy signal. Being a Negro officer in a mixed neighborhood, we suspect, is going to bring retribution home to superior white folk in a most emphatic form. We suspect after several horrible tragedies Atlantans will welcome a Dorie Miller on Auburn avenue armed with authority to shoot or apprehend white folk as the occasion may demand.

But honor bright, who would have thought that a dumb Ku Klux or a subversive Columbian could dissect and analyze

a social situation such as exposed in the Atlanta petition? Never did we believe such wisdom could emanate from under a bed sheet or spawn in the belly of villiany.

But let us not lose our poise or balance. The Ku Klux down Georgia way, it should be remembered, are the ones who do not want Negro policemen. They are the ones who do not want Negroes to arrest white people or serve as administrative officers down in mixed districts where the lordly Nordic roams. In this emergency they tell the truth to promote evil. *Sat 1-17-48*

We think the best description of the Ku Klux in this instance is mentioned in the Bible, in the picture drawn of a hypocrite:

"For they are likened unto white sepulchers, which while beautiful on the outside, are within full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness."

## A Good Word For Negro Police

What the retiring July-August Grand Jury had to say in praise of the splendid service Negro police are rendering to Atlanta is a heartening tribute to the policemen themselves and a reassurance of the wisdom of Negro and white leaders who worked so eagerly for their appointment. In its presentments the jury said:

"We find that for several months Negro police have been patrolling those areas of Atlanta where Negroes congregate and conclude that they are effective in creating greater respect for law and order in those areas." The Grand Jury called attention to the responsibility of the citizens themselves in promoting respect for the laws in the Atlanta community. The ultimate responsibility for law observance, it finds, as well as the prevention of crime and delinquency, rests upon each and every one of us. *Sun 9-5-48*

What the Grand Jury had to say in praise of these men is what others have been saying in their unofficial capacities for several weeks after they had begun operating. And what they have been able to achieve under present conditions is merely indicative of what could be accomplished if we had more of them for congested Negro areas. For as things stand now these 8 men cannot possibly spread out into the vast areas where their services are needed. Atlanta needs and should have, at the earliest possible moment, another 20 or 30 men in uniform to patrol the strictly Negro areas. We hope that the time is not far distant when we as colored citizens will have this additional protection. They have done a good job and we join in words of praise to them.

## That Unruly Prisoner

The rare courage and patience exercised by Negro policemen on Auburn Avenue Wednesday night gives flesh and substance to the argument by Negro leaders that brutality by police can and should be reduced to a minimum.

Here we see two Negro officers, Strickland and McKinney, both of whom were assigned to the Auburn Avenue vicinity, tugging with a 23-year-old man who fought them, broke from arrest on two occasions and attempted to attack them with a switch blade knife. From the stand point of patience and tolerance, no two officers of the law could have been expected to do more. *Sat 9-4-48*

Imagine what would have happened to the same Negro if he had shown so much as a rebellious attitude, not to say a word about breaking from arrest or dangling a switch

blade knife, if the situation had been reversed and white officers been in the place of the Negro officers. Very probably the Negro would be a dead man today instead of sustaining a bullet wound in the feet.

We commend, therefore, the tolerance and extreme patience of the two arresting Negro officers. Obedience to law is liberty in a free society. And the sooner unruly Negro prisoners learn that the community is in no way behind that sort of behavior the better it will be for them.

White Officer Claims Patrolman Willard Strickland. The white officer said he saw Strickland pour a drink into a glass and drink it. He said further, according to reports, that Strickland offered him a drink. Patrolman Willard Strickland made a flat denial that he offered a white patrolman on special duty the officer a drink. It was not learned whether the charge at police headquarters that accused Negro officer was temporary or permanent. He did not perform along with the other Negro officers during Saturday's tour of duty.

The report came from Patrolman other seven officers during Saturday's tour of duty.

turnal game of chance, sometimes called the "Rooster game," was growing rapidly in the city. Estes was carried before Recorder A. W. Callaway Friday who ordered him bound over to the grand jury under \$1,000 bond on charges of lottery.

According to the arresting officers, Estes was about to board a cab when he was approached and found possessing a leather pouch containing 30 numbered balls similar to those police claim are used to select the winning number in the lottery.

Explaining the operations of "night lottery," reliable sources claim each player selects three digits he expects to be the winning number. The winning number is established, when the leaders of the racket assemble at a rendezvous and draw three of the numbered balls, it was said. Police said it was learned that operators in the Auburn Avenue vicinity would shift the location of

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the rendezvous for each drawing, thereby making it difficult for a raid. It takes just a moment for the drawing police reported. After that the crowd disperses immediately.

A "not guilty" plea was entered by Attorney George G. Finch, who defended Estes at the commitment hearing. He charged the evidence was insufficient to establish a charge of lottery.

Assisting the state was Assistant Sol. R. M. George, of Fulton County Criminal court.

The assistant solicitor said, the case against Estes looms as a test case for his court, since it is the first "night lottery" case to be presented to them.

Speaking of night lottery, Mr. George asserted that operators of the game are trying to supplant the day lottery racket by the new scheme since it affords fewer risks.

He went on to say his office was informed that a quantity of the numbers are solicited by telephone to avoid the risk of being caught with a ticket.

The game was compared to "bolita" or "little ball" which flourishes in Puerto Rico, Cuba and in some parts of Florida.

#### RAID GAMBLING DEN

Also on Thursday night, seven of the Negro patrolmen, figured in a raid on an Auburn avenue club, located above 256 Auburn Avenue, whereby 21 persons were said to have been arrested for gambling. reports show that the 21 defendants were fined \$12 each.

## Greater Respect For Law Seen In Negro Attitude

Cleaner Atlanta Urged As United Duty Of Atlantans

The retiring July-August grand jury of Fulton County Friday gave special praise to the performance of duty by Atlanta's eight Negro officers.

In its presentments the jury said: "We find that for several months Negro police have been patrolling those areas of Atlanta where Negroes congregate, and conclude that they are effective in creating greater respect for law and order in these areas."

The responsibility of the citizens in law enforcement was cited by the jury. It said "to every citizen of Fulton county, we present the

sordid picture that comes before each successive grand jury: Burglary, robbery, larceny, murder, rape, assault, bigamy, sodomy, abandonment of minor children and other crimes. The ultimate responsibility for law observance and the prevention of crime and delinquency rests upon each and every one of us," the jurors declared. "Only through the interest and concerted action of all the people can we build a cleaner and greater community."

Among other things the grand jury criticized sharply the appalling number of accidents caused by reckless driving. "Authorities cannot provide a policeman for every vehicle," the jurors declared. "The jury would therefore charge every driver with his or her responsibility to respect the law and rights of others."

Legislation urged by the jury included:

1. A law requiring that defendants be sworn when testifying in their own behalf and that they be subjected to cross-examination by the state.
2. A measure to abolish the indeterminate sentence law.
3. A law restoring to the judge the power and authority to fix the penalty after conviction.
4. A law that make the maximum penalty mandatory upon a third conviction of a felony or misdemeanor.
5. A law requiring proof of automobile ownership before a transfer of title may be made.

## City Attorney Moves To Have Suit Dismissed

The suit to restrain the City from employing Negro policemen is currently under advisement of Fulton Superior Court Judge Bond Almand, following Tuesday's arguments by Plaintiff V. M. Ownby and City Attorney Jack Savage.

Atty. Savage argued that there was no cause of action by plaintiff G. Herbert Yarn since the proposal of hiring Negro officers had done him no injury. He filed a general demurrer asking that the suit be dismissed on those grounds.

Atty. Ownby attacked the proposal as a violation of both federal and state constitutions, declaring that the restrictions of Negro police as outlined in the proposal is an attempt "to perpetrate a fraud upon both the white and Negro people of Atlanta. There is no such thing as a Negro district or community in Atlanta, the attorney said. "Ne-

gro and white homes are interspersed over and through large areas" of the city.

#### FILES ANOTHER BRIEF

After Atty. Savage had filed his answer and general demurrer, Atty. Ownby asked the court for permission to file an additional brief, which was granted. It was theorized that ample time is not in the offing for filing such brief. "The suit at hand was purely to try an academic question,"

Atty. Savage declared and has been sustained by Mr. Yarn for requested legal action.

The petition of Mr. Yarn names Mayor Hartsfield, the City Council, City Police Herbert T. Jenkins and City Personnel Director Carl T. Sutherland as defendants.

Leading observers have labeled the suit a last ditch stand by opponents to throw a monkey wrench into the City's hiring of Negro officers.

Already 57 Negro applicants for police have taken initial examinations of which eight were reported to have passed. The application schedule was extended recently and currently applications for Negro police jobs are still available.

Atty. Savage surmised that the decision will in all probability be returned within the week.

## Atlanta Has Right To Hire Negro Cops

ATLANTA (AP) — Judge Bond Almand of superior (circuit) court handed down as decision here Tuesday that the city of Atlanta had full authority to appoint Negroes to its police force. The ruling was made after the judge had rejected a taxpayer's contention that the plan was unconstitutional.

However, the city was unable to go through with the appointment of Negroes to the police force -- because it had no candidates to appoint. City Personnel Director Carl Sutherland disclosed that 67 Negroes had applied for eight places on the force. Only 56 appeared for physical examination, and only two were qualified. These two, if they appear, must pass an oral interview and have their character checked. Sutherland said he had issued called for more candidates.

#### Eight Applicants

Pass Police Tests Reports from the office of Carl T.

Sutherland, City Personnel Director, disclosed that eight of the 57 applicants who took the initial police examination last Friday passed the tests.

These eight will have to undergo medical examinations and physical agility tests toward appointments to the City police force. Those who fail will be disqualified from further examinations.

View of the fact that the city is taking for eight policemen for duty and that only a small number of the applicants successfully made the first hurdle, the personnel office surmised that a new program calling for applicants will be opened.

## White Cop Turns Thief Robs Negroes On His Night Off

Savannah, Ga. — A local police officer, Robert C. Vickery, went on a holdup spree of Negro establishments and persons here recently when he got his first Saturday off on the force. Police chief Truman Ward, in reporting the incident, said the Vickery robberies netted him \$500 and three pistols and kept the police switchboard busy through most of the night.

Accompanied by a friend, Lester Brown, 23, Vickery posed as either a policeman or revenue officer, chief ward said.

George Vickery, brother of the Saturday Night robber, and also a member of the force assisted in capturing Robert, who said he and Brown had got to drinking." He returned the pistol and \$172 of the loot.

## Anchor Aweigh, My Lads

NAVY now has 18,111 Negro men. We are happy to report that Stewards and mess-men are now only 65 percent of these instead of the 82 percent of the total they were in 1946. They are still well over quota and no enlistments in Steward's branch are being accepted.

When Navy announced last week that 100 senior dental students would be accepted for appointment as probationary Ensigns, Negro dentists (National Dental Assn) was wroth to find no mention of Howard or Meharry. Navy has explained no slight was intended and all is peaches (thanks to diplomacy of Lt. Dennis Nelson) with both schools invited to take part.

On the other hand, when Urban League and NAACP were invited for first time this year to aid in sponsoring Navy Day (Oct. 27), they were uninterested. UL after first refusing, reconsidered and now will help. NAACP after first accepting had its Spingarn address a curt note of refusal, "not in our sphere." (We are ready, too, John Henry).

Both Navy and Army put out good Leadership Man-

Will walk with to O. J. W. Sanders and J. W. Sanders walked up and ordered him to move. Strickland and Sanders said Kent's foot was protruding upon the edge of the sidewalk.

## Negro Officers' Charge Fails

Protesters Frank White day night in front of his home at 808 West N.E. Kent, 58, a Negro, who was arrested for his barbecue stand and the side-



## Self-Interest Group

It is highly gratifying to call colored Atlantans to observe the most genuine reception which is being extended to the new Negro policemen, who are now beginning to work certain restricted areas among the Negro people. Almost to the individual, white and Negroes have expressed a favorable impression of the service and good disposition of each of the officers. *Atlanta, Ga.*

Nevertheless, and as was to be expected, a small group, principally those of foreign extract, who operate beer joints and honky-tonk businesses in predominant Negro communities, have gone on record, or shouldn't we say, have lodged complaints, against the police because they say, they hurt their business. What they mean is that because the Negro officers keep the rowdies from congregating in their stores and drinking up all of their pay checks before coming out, their business is falling off. But they forgot that crime is also falling off; that there is less cursing and clowning going on, that mothers and children are getting more of the husbands' and fathers' pay checks now than they got before the Negro cops were assigned to these special beats.

It seems a great pity that these business people who enjoy virtually all of their patronage from Negroes would be the first to register complaints against our best interests. Such selfishness will rob our people and our community of the best we have without so much as a thought be given toward what they can do in return. The sooner our people learn to avoid business people selling their goods to us out of one hand and sneaking around and working against our best interests on the other, the better it will be for them. For no matter how many of these complain about policemen doing their sworn duty, it will do very little harm. The Negro police are here to stay. Upstanding citizens, white and colored, are proud of them. *Fri. 5-21-48*

Of course, the Negro policemen will exercise discretion and common sense in the performance of their duty. Of course they will make unnecessary arrests and molest hard-working people in the pursuit of their duty. When they ask a person or group to "move on" they are working under the authority of the Police Department. As yet, we have heard nothing but praise for the industry, tact and good judgment of these officers from Police Department. We hope they will continue to be good officers.

## Charge Against Police Dropped By Fulton Court

*Wed-6-30-48*

### Police Committee To Hear Strickland

### Charge Tonight

By C. LAMAR WEAVER  
A suspected clandestine faction—apparently determined to undermine and block at any cost a successful establishment of Negro police in the city was handed a zoomerang Tuesday when Fulton Civil Court Judge Ralph McClelland dismissed assault and battery charges against two of the Negro officers accused in a warrant sworn out by another Negro arrested on a drunk charge.

The dismissed charges appeared to be the third attempt of an un-

dercover group which seeks to discredit the Negro patrolmen.

The warrant charging assault and battery at the hands of Officers John William Sanders Jr., and Willard Strickland was sworn out by Willie J. Purdue, of 64 Butler St., N. W. He was arrested by the officers on June 5.

### CONFLICT SEEN

He had charged that the two accused officers stopped him in front of his residence and after allegedly arresting him without cause, began to beat him.

"I haven't had a drop—in fact, I just got off from work," Purdue said he told the officers.

And yet, strangely enough, Purdue is reported to have pleaded guilty to the drunk charge before the Recorder and is currently serving the remainder of a 30-day sentence imposed on him.

At Tuesday's hearing, the Negro officers testified that Purdue was drunk and resisted arrest.

### LANDLADY TESTIFIES

A climax to the officers' position was seen in the testimony of Purdue's landlady, who, when asked by the judge her observation in the case, said:

"Yes sir, he was drunk! He comes in drunk every pay day."

Purdue, when asked by the judge why he pleaded guilty to the drunk charge when he wasn't as claimed in the warrant, said:

"Judge, I just pleaded guilty to come out as light as I could in court."

"I don't see anything in this case."

### OTHER FRICTION SEEN

Officer Strickland, one of the officers charged with the warrant, is currently under suspension following a report by a white officer, L. H. Strickland, that he observed the Negro officer drinking in an Auburn Avenue cabaret.

The white officer was on special duty at the cabaret at the time of the report. Since that time he has been relieved of that duty, it was learned.

Meanwhile, he and his partner operate a patrol car in the Auburn Avenue vicinity.

The white officer Strickland was involved in another flareup of friction with Negro patrolmen Monday evening when he is reported to have made charges that two Negro officers, who arrested a drunk suspect, refused to transfer the prisoner to him.

The Negro officers, John W. Sanders, Jr., and Robert McKibben, in denying that the white officer had made a request of transfer of the prisoner, were reportedly subjected to profane name-calling by the white officer Strickland.

Not a single witness could be

found who heard Officer Strickland or his partner make a request of transfer. Many witnesses who swarmed on the scene immediately after the prisoner's arrest said Strickland and his partner drove into the filling station across the street from the call box and just sat there without directing any remarks to the Negro officers.

It was said that Strickland and his partner were instructed to substitute for the patrol wagon in picking up the Negro officers' prisoner.

No new developments in the incident were manifested Tuesday.

### DRINKING PROBE SLATED

Tonight City Council's Police Committee is slated to hear the charge against Officer Willard Strickland of conduct unbecoming an officer.

This morning at 10:30 o'clock an aroused Citizens Police Committee, comprising Negroes, is slated to meet at the Butler Street YMCA to discuss the alarming situation.

## Police Get 24 Extras

*Atlanta Constitution*

Negro Patrolman Willard Strickland was suspended for 20 days, and 24 white supernumeraries were added to the Police Department in a special order issued yesterday by Chief Herbert Jenkins following a meeting of City Council's police committee.

In a hearing before the Police Committee Wednesday night, Strickland was found guilty on charges of taking a drink of liquor in an Auburn Avenue restaurant while off duty. *Fri. 7-2-48*

The supernumerary list was the first in several years because of light applications. The men were instructed to report at 8 a. m. Monday for training in the police school under Capt. C. D. Harde-man.

They were: Leroy M. Letteer, William J. Wilson, Jr., Fred A. Tanner, Jr., Carl O. Gaddis, Charles F. Vickers, Jr., Larry Newton Bradley, Wilford W. Melvin, Jr., Edsel F. Moore, Walter V. Makarewicz, John J. Fromme, Raleigh L. McMillan, Cecil D. Talton, William T. Dodd, Artice L. Kraft, Guy D. Fullerton, Jr., Robert H. Sumpter, Sr., Clyde B. Dickerson, Cecil M. Kennedy, John G. Adams, James C. Jackson, Julius E. Smith, Roy L. Gunter, Benjamin F. Rains and David L. Prince.

The order announced the resignation of Patrolman F. E. Stanford, who left the force to re-enter the plumbing business, and also the resignation of Charles Graves as radio technician. William Loundermilk was appointed

radio technician; Miss Mildred A. Callahan and Mrs. Kathrine Gossett were appointed clerk typists and Sallie Allen and Ollie Coley colored matrons. *7-2-48*

## Grand Jury Approves Move For Race Police

By NNPA News Service  
ATLANTA, Ga.—In presentments to Judge Virlyn Moore last Friday, the Fulton county Grand Jury indorsed Atlanta officials' efforts toward slum clearance and the employment of colored police to patrol colored sections. *Atlanta, Ga.*

Regarding slum clearance, the presentments said:

"It is the feeling of this grand jury that the effort in behalf of slum clearance and housing improvement now being conducted by the City of Atlanta warrants the earnest support of our citizens, as certainly much crime is born of poor and crowded living quarters.

About colored police, the report said: *1-17-48*

"This grand jury wishes to express approval of and offer support to the newly adopted policy of the city to employ and carefully train Negro policemen to patrol the Negro areas of the city. It is our feeling that this is a step forward in law enforcement among the Negro race and shall result in more respect for the laws of our city and state."

## Grand Jury Okays Negro Policemen

Fulton county grand jury Friday in *Atlanta Daily World* against outside court influence and recommending that such practices be halted issued in addition favorable remarks to the city for hiring of Negro policemen and the city slum clearance drive.

The Grand jury said of Negro police: *Sun 7-4-48*

"The Grand Jury wishes to express approval of an offer support to the newly adopted policy of the City to employ and carefully train Negro policemen to patrol the Negro areas of the City. It is our feeling that this is a step forward in law enforcement among the Negro race and shall result in more respect for the laws of our city and state."

The slum clearance program, the jury said, "warrants the earnest support of our citizens as certainly much crime is born of poor, crowded living quarters."

The jury scored lenient sentences and fines given "perpetrators" in Fulton Criminal Court.



# Strickland Returns To Police Force

By C. LAMAR WEAVER

Meeting in a regular session at Police Headquarters Wednesday night City Council's Police Committee voted a 20 day suspension for Negro Patrolman Willard Strickland, thereby, reinstating him to duty effective as of today.

The Negro officer had been temporarily suspended

The Negro officer Strickland had been charged with conduct unbecoming an officer in a report made by a white officer, L. H. Strickland, who claimed he observed the Negro officer drinking in an Auburn Avenue cabaret while off duty on June 11.

Ostensibly, the only person which appeared bent on pressing the charges to discredit the Negro officer was the white officer Strickland. So conspicuous was his intentions that he stood as a lone pine tree in the Sahara desert.

When called to offer his plea, the Negro officer Strickland, at first, replied:

"I don't know whether I'm guilty or not."

## CASE PRESENTED

It was then the white officer Strickland was requested to present his case.

The officer told the committee he was working on special duty at the cabaret located at 345 Auburn Ave., when the Negro officer Strickland approached him and offered him a drink. He claimed he denied the offer and shortly thereafter observed the Negro officer pour a drink and consume it.

The accusing officer related that knowing it to be his sworn duty to enforce law and order and that it was a violation of law for an officer to drink, especially in a public place, he called in a superior officer to whom he referred his charges.

## ACCUSED OFFICER TESTIFIES

When the opportunity of testifying shifted again to the Negro officer Strickland, he admitted being in a party group at the cabaret but claimed that a persistent person in the party slipped a portion of whiskey into a glass of orange juice he was drinking.

Denying offering the white officer a drink, Strickland evoked a round of laughter from the committeemen when he said he told the white officer he had been offered more whiskey since being on the force that in his entire lifetime.

Captain L. J. Carroll, who was also called to investigate the alleged irregularity, testified positively that the Negro officer was not in-

toxicated. He said that the Negro officer admitted taking a small drink, but since it wasn't noticeable, he refused to take any drastic action and advised him to go home.

## "GOOD OFFICER"

The immediate commander of the Negro officers, Detective Sergeant E. B. Brooks, told the committee that Strickland was a very good officer. "In fact," he added, "he's one of the best we've got."

Police Chief H. T. Jenkins stated he had warned the Negro officers against such things as was before the committee. On several occasions he had cautioned them to steer clear of baited traps.

## ACCUSING OFFICER QUESTIONED

Salvos of questions were leveled at the accusing officer by the committeemen and Mayor Hartsfield in an apparent attempt to ascertain the sincerity of the charges presented.

The question gauntlet directed and replies of the accusing officer went thus:

"Isn't the cabaret a respectable place and comparable to the respectable clubs for whites in the city?"

"Yes, it is."

"Have you ever made other charges in the establishment for drinking?"

"No."

"Did you remonstrate with the Negro officer before calling a superior?"

"No."

"You saw no one else there taking a drink?"

"No."

"Was the Negro officer orderly?"

"Yes."

Following the query, the committeemen displayed puzzled expressions, and remarked that the case would be taken into deliberation.

The white officer Strickland said he had worked on special duty at the cabaret for six weeks. Latest reports claim he is no longer employed there.

# Court Upholds Ban On Arrest Of Whites By Georgia Police

ATLANTA, Ga.—Georgia's Supreme Court upheld on Wednesday the right of the chief of police to prohibit Atlanta's new Negro policemen from arresting white people.

The issue had been pressed by G. Herbert Yarn, an undertaker, who had attacked the assignment of Negro policemen to areas in which Negroes reside and restrictions placed upon their powers in Fulton Superior Court. Judge Bound Almand dismissed the complaint and Mr. Yarn appealed.

Presiding Justice W. H. Duckworth, in the Supreme Court opinion, said that the City Council of Atlanta gives the chief of police the power to assign policemen and that he can limit their authority to make arrest or prohibit them from making arrests, at his own discretion.

Meanwhile, the city of Nashville, in Tennessee, was planning to follow the example of several southern cities by hiring Negro policemen.

# Put Off Police Suit Hearing Indefinitely

Applicants Take

# First Test Of Series Tonight

Hearing on the suit to restrain the City from employing Negro policemen was postponed for the third time Thursday when City Attorney Jack Savage disclosed he was tentatively tied-up for service at the State capitol at a Public Service Commission hearing on proposed increased trolley rate fares.

The first postponement occurred last Saturday when the plaintiff G. Herbert Yarn, white undertaker, tendered an amendment to his original petition. The second delay had

opened Wednesday upon disclosure by Atty. Sav. that he had to be on hand for a hearing on the proposed trolley fare hearing.

## TESTS BEGIN TONIGHT

Meanwhile, in view of the fact that Fulton Superior Court Judge E. E. Andrews denied issuance of an injunction order restraining employment of the police, Carl T. Sutherland, City Personnel Director, revealed Thursday that applicants will take their first of an examination series tonight.

The applicants will assemble at Smith-Hughes vocational school, 232 Pryor St., S. W., at 6 p. m. tonight and take written tests under the supervision of City Personnel Technician Carl Paul, Mr. Sutherland said.

Following the written tests, the applicants will undergo other examinations at a later date, it was disclosed.

Sixty-seven applicants have applied for police jobs and from this number eight are to be screened and inaugurated for duty in Negro neighborhoods.

## LONG FIGHT

The fight to have Negroes become a part of the City Police force reached its climax during the month of December when a resolution drawn up by Police Commissioner Ralph A. Hurd was adopted by a 10 to 7 vote of the City Council.

Influencing the favorable vote of the resolution was a recommendation from City Police Chief Hebert T. Jenkins who outlined stipulations for the hiring of Negro officers. These stipulations included confinement of Negro policemen to Negro communities; separate precinct for Negro officers; restraint of Negro officers from arresting whites and withholding of civil service status for the officers until their worth has been proven.

Immediately after City Council's adoption of the resolution, Mr. Yarn brought suit against the city claiming that it exceeded its authority in employing Negro policemen through legislative measures.

Attorney for Mr. Yarn is Vester M. Ownsby, who was a leading spokesman against the issue.

# 8 Policemen Start Work in Atlanta

ATLANTA (NNPA) —Colored police officers began patrolling beats here last Saturday in areas inhabited solely by members of their race, thus activating an eight-man colored police division approved by the city council some months ago.

Under the experimental plan, the officers are working only one day each week—Saturday—for the next four weeks, after which they will begin regular assignments following a special training course.

Police Chief Jenkins said the officers have shown considerable

aptitude and expressed satisfaction with their progress. Colored officers will wear their uniforms only while on duty, changing to plain clothes at precinct headquarters when they come off duty.

# Policemen In South

Macon, Ga.—(G)—Seemingly some

Southern Negro policemen do not realize the importance of their positions,

nor the harm their careless conduct may work upon the entire movement

to secure more police officers in Southern cities.

In this city, Ben Savis, a police officer has been arrested and discharged

from the Department. Caught with

number tickets in his possession, he

admitted that he had been engaged in

the numbers racket. He is scheduled

to appear in Court in the near future.

Such conduct makes it all the more

difficult for Negro leaders struggling

in many Southern cities to convince

prejudiced white citizens and city commissions that Negro policemen are an

asset to law and order.

Thirteen new police officers, one

a Negro and the others white, were

sworn in here Thursday by Police

Chief Jenkins. Young M. A. Horns-

by, Jr. son of the late Police Chief

M. A. Hornsby, was among the 12

white officers receiving the oath

from Chief Jenkins.

# Negro Officer Sworn In Here

Thirteen new police officers, one a Negro and the others white, were sworn in here Thursday by Police Chief Jenkins. Young M. A. Hornsby, Jr. son of the late Police Chief M. A. Hornsby, was among the 12 white officers receiving the oath from Chief Jenkins.

# State Court Upholds Restrictions on New Atlanta Policemen

ATLANTA—The Georgia Supreme Court upheld the right of the local chief of police to prohibit newly-appointed colored policemen from arresting white persons, in a decision handed down on April 14.

G. Herbert Yarn, an undertaker, had challenged restrictions placed upon the officers in Fulton Superior Court. Judge Bound Almand dismissed the

complaint and Yarn appealed. Presiding Justice W. H. Duckworth said the police chief can limit the officers' authority at his discretion.



# New Policemen Handle Cases Daily World With Great Calm

Atlanta, Ga.  
BY C. LAMAR WEAVER

Atlanta's Negro policemen are no longer "new policemen" the familiar name given them when they first went on active duty. *Tues.* Seeing them performing routine duty on the streets and presenting their cases in Recorder's court is no longer a novelty as they busily concern themselves with preventing crimes and upholding the law.

Perhaps the most interesting cases confronting the officers over the weekend was a raid on an alleged whiskey house and another raid on an alleged gambling den.

The whiskey case was presented by Officer Willard Strickland in Recorder's court Monday. The defendant was Miss Malinda Chambers. *5-25-48*

Officer Strickland told Recorder Callaway that the tipoff was gotten from two persons who were picked up for being intoxicated.

## LAW MOVES IN

Returning to the dwelling, the officer said he approached the front door while his partner, John Sanders, Jr., went to the rear door. Knocking at the house and informing the occupant that it was the law, Strickland's partner hollered: "She's pouring it out in the sink!" it was said.

Both officers made a hurried entrance and claimed that the half gallon jar was there, reeking with the small amount of whiskey that remained.

Miss Chamber's attorney tried persistently to cross-up the officer with such questions as:

"Did you taste the stuff? How do you know it wasn't soured slop?"

The officer answered curtly:

"I didn't taste it, but I know whiskey when I smell it. *5-25-48* That was WHISKEY!"

The defendant rolled her eyes and cast several daggered glances at the officer as she refuted the charge. She spoke with rapid fire tempo and heated expressions in an attempt to clear herself.

After hearing both sides in the case and beaming with an occasional delight, the judge said "whiskey it was" and imposed a \$27. fine on the defendant. *Atlanta, Ga.*

In the raid on the alleged gambling den, the officers said 10 persons were arrested, nine of them charged with gaming and occupying a dive

while the head of the house was charged with operating a dive. *4-14-48*

## Negro Policeman Returns to School

Negro Patrolman W. T. Elkins resigned from the Atlanta police force yesterday in order to continue an undergraduate course at Morehouse College, Chief Herbert Jenkins announced. *3-31-48*

The resignation of Elkins created the second vacancy in the four-month-old Negro squad of eight men. Patrolman Willard Strickland was suspended from service last Saturday by Chief Jenkins after he allegedly offered a white patrolman a drink of whiskey in an Auburn Avenue restaurant and, when the white officer refused, sat down at a table and took a drink himself. *6-17-48*

Elkins resigned after being denied a 90-day leave of absence which Chief Jenkins said was against the policy of the Department.

## Jenkins Says Negro

## Police Have Area Arrest Authority

The Georgia Supreme Court ruling on the employment of Negro police in Atlanta did not bar them from arresting white criminals. *Atlanta, Ga.*

This impression was given in a headline error of Thursday's issue of the Atlanta Daily World.

The Georgia Supreme Court ruled simply on the matter of the authority of Chief of Police Jenkins to run his Department as he feels discretionary, including the designation of areas in which they may patrol and as to arrests.

The high court followed the same line of reasoning in the ruling made in Fulton Superior Court by Judge Bond Almand that the running of the Police Department was none of the business of G. Herbert Yarn, local white undertaker. Yarn was making his second attempt to void the city's hiring of Negro patrolmen, charging that the Council law to restrain Negro officers from white arrests was unconstitutional. *Fri. 4-16-48*

When the eight Negro patrolmen were sworn in several weeks ago the regulation oath for police was given and accepted.

Chief Jenkins said Thursday that he would back his men to the limit

in the prosecution of their duties and that they had been given instructions and authority which, coupled with the assistance of the entire department, would mean coping with any situation at hand in their district.

## Criminals—Negro, White

To the Editor of The News:

Recently I read of the appointment of eight Negro policemen in Atlanta, Ga., with instructions from the chief of police not to arrest a white person. I have been wondering if two Negro policemen were to catch two white men robbing a bank, assaulting a woman, or any other crime of serious nature, would the chief of police expect the two policemen to run and telephone a white policeman before making an arrest? I suppose in an attempted robbery or commission of crime by a white armed robber who shoots at the Negro policeman, he is expected to run for his life and forget he has a gun. *Wed. 4-14-48*

I was born here, but I still can't understand why one man is better than the other if they—the Negro and white—commit a crime. Aren't they both criminals? *4-14-48*

Is it a shame for a Negro policeman who has sworn to uphold the law to arrest a white man who has broken the law? Will someone explain this to me, please? *The News*

Birmingham, Ala. LEE A. HEWITT,  
336 14th Avenue, North.

## Negro Officer Suspended After Drinking Quiz

Willard Strickland, Negro policeman, was suspended from duty late yesterday by Chief Herbert Jenkins following an investigation of reports the Negro was seen drinking shortly after going off duty Friday night. *Atlanta, Ga.*

Patrolman L. H. Strickland, a white policeman, reported he was working extra in a Negro restaurant on Auburn Avenue early yesterday, and the Negro policeman, off duty and in plain clothes, came into the establishment, offered the white policeman a drink, and when the latter refused, the Negro policeman sat down at a table and took a drink. The white officer called Capt. L. J. Carroll to the scene, and after an investigation, ordered the Negro policeman to go home. *Mon. 6-13-48*

Willard Strickland has been on the force only a few weeks, and Chief Jenkins, in issuing the suspension order, said he would bring him before the Police Committee of Council at its next session. *Mon. 6-13-48*

## One Fly In The Ointment

The Atlanta Police Department for the most part we think, has demonstrated a friendly reception and interest in our new Negro policemen. Certainly it can be said that Mayor William B. Hartsfield, Police Chief Herbert T. Jenkins and Detective Sergeant E. B. Brooks have been and are continuing to be, manifestly fair in every manner toward them. That is as it should be since no reasonable person would deny the basic justice in having a third of Atlanta's population represented in the department, when the practice is conceded today in almost every major city of the South and scores of smaller municipalities. *Daily World*

Nevertheless, we would be closing our eyes against an unfortunate incident if we did not recognize the wholly unfriendly, and we think, unfair attitude, taken by L. H. Strickland, white officer on special duty in a Negro night club on Auburn Avenue, some 20 or more days ago, when he reported him for drinking in a public place, although off duty. We are unalterably opposed to whiskey in any form. Neither a minister, school teacher, church worker, lawyer, doctor or policeman, has any right to call people to a higher life unless he himself is the epitome of the thing which he professes to believe or enforce. Thus, for the sake of an argument, at least, we hasten to say that although the Negro officer took a small sip and although he did so off duty, there is still no valid ground on which an officer can be justified for drinking. *Atlanta, Ga. Fri. 7-2-48*

But we are forced to share the sentiment expressed by one member of City Council when he implied that the white officer Strickland went out of his way to make a case against the Negro officer, since all over the night club there were others drinking and since he admitted that he had at no time in the past made a case against any of those in the club, except an occasional drunk. Fortunately, there are not

many officers on the force with the spirit of officer Strickland. And for that Negroes need to be thankful, since in the last analysis, the success of the Negro policemen will depend upon the cooperation and encouragement they receive from their associates.

Finally, a word of caution should be said to a few Uncle Tom Negroes, some of whom are operating shady businesses which require complicity and cover up by white officers. Some of these businesses have come to light since Negro policemen have been appointed. We hope that these Negroes will either get their businesses in order or make up their minds to close their doors as well as their big mouths. For Negro officers are in Atlanta to stay and no amount of underworld tactics will succeed in rooting them out. The plain truth is that Negroes are happy over the improved behavior in the few neighborhoods where the race officers are serving. We hope, therefore, that these big mouth clowns as well as the hair-brained, now being used by clandestine forces from the white group to institute court proceedings will cease their efforts at once. For these can mean nothing but disappointment, expose and heart aches for them. *Fri. 7-2-48*

Members of Police Committee of City Council are to be commended for their sense of justice in restoring Strickland to his job. *Fri. 7-2-48*



# Atlanta Appoints New Policeman

ATLANTA, Ga.—Atlanta appointed a new Negro officer last week in the person of James E. McKinney, 21-year-old Washington High School graduate and former Clark College student.

City Council rounded out the authorized quota of eight Negro patrolmen in approving McKinney to fill the vacancy left by Willie T. Elkin who resigned a few weeks ago.

## Police Get 24 Extras

Negro Patrolman Willard Strickland was suspended for 20 days, and 24 white supernumeraries were added to the Police Department in a special order issued yesterday by Chief Herbert Jenkins following a meeting of City Council's police Committee.

In a hearing before the Police Committee Wednesday night, Strickland was found guilty on charges of taking a drink of liquor in an Auburn Avenue restaurant while off duty.

The supernumerary list was the first in several years because of light applications. The men were instructed to report at 8 a. m. Monday for training in the police school under Capt. C. D. Harde-man.

They were: Leroy M. Letteer, William J. Wilson, Jr., Fred A. Tanner, Jr., Carl O. Gaddis, Charles F. Vickers, Jr., Larry Newton Bradley, Wilford W. Melvin, Jr., Edsel F. Moore, Walter V. Makarewicz, John J. Fromme, Raleigh L. McMillan, Cecil D. Talton, William T. Dodd, Article L. Kraft, Guy D. Fullerton, Jr., Robert H. Sumpter, Sr., Clyde B. Dickerson, Cecil M. Kennedy, John G. Adams, James C. Jackson, Julius E. Smith, Roy L. Gunter, Benjamin F. Rains and David L. Prince.

The order announced the resignation of Patrolman F. E. Stanford, who left the force to re-enter the plumbing business, and also the resignation of Charles Graves as radio technician. William Loudermilk was appointed radio technician; Miss Mildred A. Callahan and Mrs. Kathrine Gossett were appointed clerk typists and Sallie Allen and Ollie Grey colored matrons.

**Ask Negro Cops**

COLUMBUS, GA.—The colored social civic club has petitioned the city board of

# Flareup Seen Between White, Negro Officers

## Negroes Question Conduct Of White Officer Involved

By Staff Reporter

Auburn Avenue was in a flurry of excitement Monday evening when friction developed between a white officer, L. H. Strickland and two Negro patrolmen over transporting a prisoner to the city jail.

It was learned that Negro Patrolmen John Sanders and Robert McKibben had arrested a drunk suspect and ushered him to the call box where they made a call for the wagon.

Shortly thereafter, Officer Strickland and his partner were reported to have driven into a filling station located across the street from the call box where the Negro officers were waiting the wagon.

Perturbed at the delay of the wagon, the Negro officer placed another call, witnesses related. By this time a horde of spectators had gathered around the corner.

The white officers were said to have called a superior officer, claiming that the prisoner was not turned over to them. They were reported to have answered the call as a substitute for the wagon.

When the superior officer arrived, he along with Officer Strickland walked over to the Negro patrolmen.

Witnesses claimed Officer Strickland told the superior officer he had hollered across the street for the Negro patrolmen to turn the prisoner over to him.

**NEGRO OFFICER CURSED**

When the Negro officer denied hearing Officer Strickland's request of transfer, the white officer was said to have hurled profane remarks at one of the Negro patrolmen and surged forth as if he wanted to attack him. The superior officer reportedly intervened.

The white and Negro officers were ordered to police headquarters where a brief conference was held. Five minutes later the Negro offi-

cers were again patrolling their beat.

Not a single witness could be found who heard Officer Strickland ask for a transfer of the prisoner. All those questioned concurred that when he drove into the filling station, he and his partner merely sat there in their patrol car.

**SAME POLICEMAN**

It was Officer Strickland who reported that he observed Negro Patrolman Willard Strickland drinking in an Auburn Avenue cabaret recently, reports claim.

A large number of the Auburn Avenue residents expressed the belief that as long as he remains a car patrolman in the vicinity, additional friction with Negro officers will be forthcoming.

Reliable sources disclosed that the white Officer Strickland was no longer on special duty at the cabaret where he alleged drinking charge against the Negro officer was reported.

Negro patrolmen worked along Auburn Avenue, where thousands of Negroes gather on week-ends. Since their employment a month ago they have attended a police training school.

Their instruction will continue another four months, during which time they will spend Saturdays on patrol work. They were selected from 109 applicants. Seven of them are veterans and five have had college training.

When asked whether Negro police could arrest white persons, Chief Herbert Jenkins said:

"My instructions were specific to Negro officers. When they see a white man who should be arrested they are to call the police station and a squad car with white officers will be sent to make the arrest."

# Case Against Hiring Negro Police Voided

## Judge Almand Says Case "None Of Our Business"

By C. LAMAR WEAVER

The legal attempt of G. Herbert Yarn, white undertaker, to halt the City of Atlanta from hiring Negro policemen fizzled-out Tuesday when Fulton Superior Court Judge Bond Almand sustained a demurrer filed by the defense and, thereby, dismissed the case.

The demurrer filed by City Attorney Jack Savage asked that the suit be dismissed on the grounds that the plaintiff had not entitled to equitable relief "insufficient interest" and "had suffered no damage" from the City Council measure calling for hiring of Negro policemen.

Judge Almand had held the case by last week.

Summarizing his opinion with the curt expression, "It is simply none of our business," Judge Almand outlined the following legal principles as having controlled the disposition of the case:

"1. Courts of equity have no authority to supervise, or review the acts of a municipal governing body except in cases where there has been an unauthorized use,

abuse, or misuse of municipal authority to the hurt or injury of the public or some individual, and then only some recognized head of equitable jurisprudence.

"2. In order to determine the validity of an ordinance or resolution of a municipal legislative body, a court cannot inquire into the motives of the members of such body.

"3. The necessity and propriety of municipal legislation and administrative acts of municipal officers are for the legislative body, and a court will not inquire into the necessity or wisdom of any particular act, but is only concerned with the question of whether the action of the municipal authorities comes within their express or implied powers.

"4. A citizen or taxpayer is not against the legislative or administrative acts of municipal authorities where it does not appear that the complainant is, or will be hurt by such acts.

**CITES MERE CONCLUSION**

"5. A court of equity will not grant equitable relief upon allegations which are mere conclusions in their nature or speculative, contingent and conjectural injuries.

**UNAUTHORIZED TO COMPLAIN**

"6. One has no right to complain as to the invalidity or unconstitutionality of a legislative act of a municipal corporation or

the possibility of an unconstitutional operation of the act, which only affects persons who are not parties to the case. A complainant is only entitled to equitable relief where his PERSON or PROPERTY is in danger of injury, and will not be granted relief where he assumed to act as a VOLUNTEER GUARDIAN for another for whom he is without authority to complain."

The judge's opinion pointed out several authorities used in making his disposition.

In addition Judge Almand averred that the City's charter "vests in its Mayor and General Council full and complete authority in the organization, management and operation of its Police department."

"There is nothing in the charter or the general laws of this State which authorizes this court to approve or disapprove any policy that its municipal governing body adopts in selecting the personnel of the Police Department."

Vester M. Owenby, who reportedly drew up the charter for the now defunct Columbians Inc., represented Mr. Yarn.

Cost of court was ordered to be paid by Mr. Yarn.

**Chief's Orders  
Not 'Limited'**

## FROM WHITE ARRESTS NEGRO POLICE BARRED

The Georgia Supreme Court Wednesday ruled that the Atlanta Chief of Police has the right to order Negro police not to arrest white persons and to designate areas in which they may patrol.

The Police Chief's duties are outlined by the City Charter, the Court ruled in upholding action of the Fulton Superior Court, 1946, adding that performance of legal duties is "not a matter of

ATLANTA, April 3 (AP)—Negro policemen, with instructions not to arrest white persons, patrolled Atlanta streets today for the first



# The Grand Jury on Negro Police

*The Constitution*  
The Atlanta Constitution, firmly behind the Grand Jury system, always has regarded that institution as representing the best thinking of a cross section of the county. *33* *Sum. 1-6-48*

At a time when certain organizations and influences are attempting to condemn the City Council for deciding to put Negro police in Negro sections, handling only Negro cases—a decision almost every other Southern city reached long ago—we think it worth while to repeat the recent Grand Jury presentment on that subject in congratulating the city on a fine over-all job of work. Said the jury:

This Grand Jury wishes to express approval of and offer support to the newly adopted policy of the officials of the City of Atlanta to employ and carefully train Negro policemen to patrol the Negro areas of the City of Atlanta. It is our feeling this is a step forward in law enforcement among the Negro race and shall result in more respect for the laws of our City and State. *The Constitution*

Thoughtful citizens will concur.

## Negro Policemen

*The Constitution*  
Editor Constitution: Now its the problem of Negro policemen. Why not? If only in Negro districts. They would not have to lock up any white people if the white people would stay where they belong. You would be surprised to see the white people in the Negro districts at all times of night, the way they act and the things they say and do. *Sum. 1-6-48*

## Chief Swears In 8 Negro Officers

*The Constitution*  
Atlanta got eight Negro policemen Monday night when Police Chief Herbert Jenkins administered their oaths of office.

The group will go on the payroll next Monday. At that time they will begin an eight week training course. The eight recruits will be assigned to duty in Negro

districts at conclusion of the training. *Sum. 3-2-48*

The new policemen are Floyd Dixon, II, Robert McKibbens, Johnnie Paul Jones, John Herbert Sanders, Jr., Willard Strickland, Ernest Howell Lyons, Willie T. Elkins and Henry Hudson Hooks.

## NEGRO POLICEMEN UPHOLD

*The Times*  
Atlanta Beats Taxpayer Suit, but Has No Eligibles. *Sum. 1-28-48*

ATLANTA, Jan. 27 (AP)—The city of Atlanta won the first round today in a court battle over the appointment of Negro policemen—but had no candidates to appoint.

Superior Court Judge Bond Almand ruled that the city had full authority to name Negroes. He rejected the contention of a taxpayer, G. Herbert Yarn, that the plan was unconstitutional.

City Personnel Director Carl Sutherland disclosed that sixty-seven Negroes had applied for eight places on the force, but only fifty-six had appeared for written examinations, and eight had passed. *The Times*

Six of the eight appeared for physical examination and only two were qualified. The two, if they appear, must pass an oral interview and have their characters checked. *New York Times*

Mr. Sutherland said he had called for more candidates. *Wed. 1-28-48*

## City Of Atlanta Hires Eight Negro Police

ATLANTA, Feb. 26 (AP)—The Atlanta Police Department elected eight Negro policemen last night. The Negroes will begin work March 8. They are the first in Atlanta since reconstruction days.

The Negroes will be assigned to a precinct in a Negro section of the city. They will be under command of a white sergeant. They operate from a central headquarters. *Sum. 1-28-48*

The Negro policemen will confine their patrols to the Negro residential and business sections, but will have full police power. *Sum. 1-28-48*



## NEGRO POLICE BEGIN PATROL

Two of Atlanta's new Negro policemen, who began patrol in the Auburn Avenue section, are shown in full uniform as they check a driver's operating license while other Negroes look on with approval. The policemen left to right, are E. H. Lyons and Claud Dixon. *Sum. 4-4-48*

## Atlanta's First Patrol Of Negroes on Duty

For the first time in the history of the City of Atlanta, Negro policemen Saturday afternoon and night patrolled the streets of the city.

The eight Negro patrolmen worked in the immediate vicinity of and along Auburn Avenue, where thousands of Atlanta's Negroes gather over the weekend.

First arrest by Negro policemen came five hours and 24 minutes after they went on duty. Patrolmen Claud Dixon and E. H. Lyons at 8:24 p. m. booked James Richard, 33-year-old Negro, of 73B Mason Ave., N. E., on a drunk charge. Eleven minutes later Patrolmen Robert McKibbens and John Sanders brought in Ethel Porter, 30-year-old Negro, of 322 Butler St., on a disorderly conduct-fighting charge.

Crowds of Negroes lined the sidewalks and virtually blocked traffic to watch Negro officers

make their first swings over beats late in the afternoon.

Since their employment a month ago, they have been attending a police training school conducted by Police Capt. C. D. Hardeman. Though they still have four weeks to go in the training school, they were placed on the streets Saturday afternoon in or Police Chief Herbert Jenkins, the Negro policemen will be permitted to wear uniforms only while on duty.

Carl Sutherland, head of the Personnel Department of the City of Atlanta, pointed out that the Negro policemen had been carefully selected.

"There were 109 applications from Negroes for positions in the

*Sum. 4-4-48*

department," Sutherland said. "My department eliminated exactly 101 of these Negroes through careful screening, and I believe that the eight selected to become policemen will be of value to Atlanta." *The Constitution*

A survey of the records in Sutherland's office shows that Negro Patrolman Claud Dixon, who recently passed his twenty-first birthday, is a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, and has had three years in Morehouse College. *Atlanta, Ga.*

Henry H. Hooks, 31, another of the Negro policemen, is a graduate of Gadsden High School, served four years in the Navy, and since discharge has been employed here as an insurance salesman. *Sum.*

John Paul Jones, 28, spent four years in the Army, graduated from the Booker T. Washington High School, and has been a student at Morehouse College for the past two and a half years. He also is District Commissioner for the Negro Division of Boy Scouts in the Atlanta area. *Sum. 4-4-48*

Ernest Howell Lyons, 28, was a Staff Sergeant in the Marines, spent three and a half years in the Pacific Theater; graduated from Booker T. Washington High

While in the Army, he served as a military policeman. At the present, he is an insurance salesman. Willie T. Elkins spent five years in the Army Coast Artillery, being discharged with the rank of Captain. He is scheduled to graduate from Morehouse College. *Sum. 4-4-48*



from Morehouse College in June with a BS degree. *Sum.*

These are the first Negroes ever to be armed with police powers in Atlanta. A search through histories fails to show where any Negro policemen were ever before employed in Atlanta, even in Reconstruction days. Histories show that during the Carpetbag era Negro soldiers patrolled the streets of Atlanta, but no mention is made of Negro policemen.

Before placing the Negro policemen on duty here, Chief Jenkins, Capt. Weaver and Sgt. Brooks toured other Southern cities where Negro policemen are employed, and patterned their work here on the system employed by the cities they visited. *4-4-48*

## Chief Jenkins Pleased At Progress

One-Day Weekly Training Before

Regular Patrol

Atlantans will be given the opportunity of observing their first Negro policemen in action Saturday afternoon after Chief H. T. Jenkins Wednesday night informed the City Council's Police Committee that such activation will begin at 4 p.m. The eight-man division will comprise:

Willard Strickland, Willie T. Elkins, Johnnie P. Jones, Robert McKibbens, John Sanders, Jr., Henry Hudson Hooks, Claude Dixon and Ernest Lyons.

Slated for assignment in Negro areas, the new officers will perform active duty during one day of each of the following four weeks of training yet to be completed. After that they will be given regular assignments.

Stating that details of activity have not been definitely worked out, the Chief said the policemen in all probability will follow patterns established in Savannah. They will wear their uniforms when on duty only and change to civilian clothes at precinct headquarters located at the Butler Street YMCA.

### OFFICERS GRATEFUL

While Chief Jenkins expresses himself as being well pleased with the progress of the men, the men themselves have likewise expressed complete satisfaction and keen appreciation for the concern received

at the hands of the Chief and training officers. *Sum. 4-2-48*

They have already qualified in various phases of their training program and are expected today to wind up target practice with their service revolvers.

The training officers include: Captain C. D. Hardeman, Lt. G. R. Elliott and Officer P. C. Bynum.

To date, the Chief has not committed himself to revealing the name of the white sergeant to have command of the new officers.

## Active Duty Effective March 8

By HERMAN HANCOCK

City Council's Police Committee Wednesday night elected eight Negroes to Atlanta's police force and authorized Police Chief Jenkins to assign them to active duty effective March 8, when they will enter a training school.

Names of those elected are: Willard Strickland, Willie T. Elkins, Johnnie P. Jones, Robert McKibbens, Ernest H. Lyons, John Sanders, Jr., Henry Hudson Hooks and Claude Dixon, II.

Jenkins also was authorized to take officers of the Department on a survey of Negro police operations at Savannah or another city where he believes Atlanta officers can best ascertain the proper use of Negro officers.

The Chief said he will take Capt. C. D. Hardeman, one of the Police Training School instructors. He added he has not decided on others who will assist in making the survey. *Sum. 4-2-48*

City Council Monday will be asked to authorize Mayor Hartsfield to sign a lease agreement with Steve Arthur, Jr., owner of a building at 147 Butler St., N. E., which will be used as the Negro precinct headquarters.

Arthur has offered the structure to the City for \$1 a year, with the understanding that Atlanta will maintain the building.

Jenkins said the Negro force will be under the command of a white sergeant who will be assigned to the precinct. When the new branch is first started, all eight will be assigned on a special watch from 4 p. m. until midnight. Afterwards, the force will be split to conform to the three watches maintained by the Department.

The Negro policemen will be the first in Atlanta since Reconstruction Days.

Decision to add Negro police-

men followed appeals from religious and civic leaders who contended that a preponderance of crime in Atlanta stems from Negroes. They insisted Negro policemen would be in a better position to handle problems of their own race and expressed the belief a reduction in violations would result. *Atlanta, Ga.*

The Council action authorizing eight Negroes as an experiment was taken after Jenkins expressed the belief they would be valuable law enforcement adjuncts. *Sum.*

Of the 91 homicides recorded in Atlanta in 1947, Jenkins said 82 were Negroes. He predicts a drop when the Negro complement begins functioning. *2-26-48*

City Administration leaders agreed to put the Negroes to work on a trial basis after a public hearing by the Police Committee. Proponents and opponents appeared at the meeting and the matter was aired thoroughly. *Thurs.*

## Atlanta Begins Use Of Negro Policemen

ATLANTA—Negro policemen, with instructions not to arrest white persons, patrolled Atlanta streets Saturday for the first time in the city's history.

Eight Negro patrolmen worked along Auburn Avenue, where thousands of Negroes gather on week-ends. Since their employment a month ago they have attended a police training school.

Their instruction will continue another four months, during which time they will spend Saturdays on patrol work. They were selected from 109 applicants. Seven of them are veterans and five of them have had college training. *Sum. 4-4-48*

When asked whether Negro police could arrest white persons, Chief Herbert Jenkins said:

"My instructions were specific to Negro officers. When they see a white man who should be arrested they are to call the police station and a squad car with white officers will be sent to make the arrest." *Atlanta, Ga.*

## Negro Police Start Patrol Duty

## In Negro Areas of City Saturday

*Atlanta, Ga.* Negro police will patrol beats in Atlanta for the first time Saturday, April 4, 1948, on the revocation at its session next Monday.

Raymond W. Torras, Engineer-Secretary of the City Planning Commission, will investigate the feasibility and the cost of erecting elevated pedestrian walkways along heavily congested intersections. Jenkins proposed the study to minimize traffic hazards for pedestrians and also to speed up the flow of traffic.

## Let's Prove Our Good Will

Eight Negro policemen have been given their first introduction to their jobs in the Negro sections of the city, going to work at mid-afternoon Saturday. *Atlanta, Ga.*

There is, of course, opposition to the idea, despite the fact that many Southern cities such as Charleston, Jacksonville, Miami, Richmond, Macon and many others long have used them with success and profit. *Atlanta, Ga.*

In Atlanta they will work out of a precinct station in the Negro business section. *Mon. 4-5-48*

They have been carefully screened. All have had at least a high school education. Some served in the Army. Each is desirous of doing a good job. They are not troublemakers. They want to be a credit to themselves, Atlanta and their own people. They will work only in the Negro districts of Atlanta. *Sum. 4-5-48*

Let every thoughtful citizen give this idea support. We trust the white police officers, knowing this is not something new, but an old idea long tried in cities even more "Southern" than Atlanta, will be fair-minded and let the experiment work itself out here as it has in other Southern cities.



## Policemen (Georgia--Macon)

**MACON NEGRO POLICE**  
*The Constitution* *Int.*  
 Macon's Mayor Lewis B. Wilson announced Monday that two Negroes had been appointed to the Police Department and are expected to go to work in the near future. He said the officers would patrol the Negro areas of Macon.  
*Atlanta, Ga. 6-8-48*

**Macon Hires Two Negro Policemen**  
*Atlanta, Ga.*  
 MACON (SNS)—Mayor Lewis B. Wilson announced that two Negroes are being added to the city police force here after having served as auxiliary officers for several years. Asserting that one of the new officers began active duty Saturday, the Mayor added that they are being employed as special policemen.

**Macon Hires Two Negro Policemen**  
*Memphis, Tenn.*  
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*June 6-15-48*



# Louisville Took Lead In Hiring Negro Police For Limited Area

"Our negro officers are not outstanding, but there is no doubt they have contributed in maintaining reasonably good race relations both on patrol and in courts."

This is Police Chief Carl E. Heustis' summation of the value of negro police in Louisville, Ky., a city which has had 25 years experience in patrolling its "Black Belt" with negroes.

Today Louisville has 37 negro officers, including 16 negro uniformed officers. Only Miami, with 20 negro uniformed officers, has a greater number among Southern cities.

Louisville also has three negro police sergeants, six plainclothes detectives, four park policemen, and two negro women detectives working in the Crime Prevention Bureau.

## Other Cities Surveyed

The Commercial Appeal is presenting this series of articles, reviewing experiences of other Southern cities with negro police, since some negro groups in Memphis are pressing requests for negro police here.

Miami, which was discussed in the first article, found in the four years it has had negro police that crimes of violence among negroes has been reduced 50 per cent, juvenile delinquency 60 per cent, and the city's cost for hospitalizing negro crime victims has been reduced \$50,000 a year.

Louisville, according to Paul Bulleit, reporter for the Courier-Journal, set a precedent among Southern cities 25 years ago when it hired two negroes to help police the negro area of the city.

Since then, 51 other cities in 10 Southern states have employed negro police.

Chief Heustis, who has been with the Louisville Police Department 16 years, told Mr. Bulleit negroes have provided Louisville with "satisfactory routine policing."

In Louisville, as seems to be the general policy in Southern cities, negro police are assigned only to negro sections.

## Few Complaints Voiced

Mr. Bulleit reports some negroes in Louisville show resentment at being arrested by members of their race, but on the whole they "come along" more peacefully than if white officers "grabbed" their arms.

"Oddly enough," Mr. Bulleit relates, "there has been only a handful of complaints from white persons arrested by negro police. There are no reports on record where a colored officer has treated a white person with brutality."

(Tomorrow: Dallas' experiences with negro police.)

Woman Says Detective

Who Arrested Her

Suit for \$16,325 was filed in Circuit Court yesterday against

City Detective Jesse Taylor, Negro, by a woman he arrested.

Mrs. Willie Mae Turner, Negro, 526 West, charged that the policeman injured her.

Taylor went to the Turner home last November to investigate screams. He arrested Mrs. Turner on a charge of disorderly conduct and she was fined \$5 in Police Court. A Criminal Court jury found Taylor not guilty in an assault and battery charge filed by the woman.

# Arrest In Louisville Brings Suspension For Prather Walker

the head with a pistol butt.

## BATTERED

LEXINGTON — The Lexington Board of City Commissioners with one dissenting vote found Prather Walker, one of Lexington's two Negro police, guilty of "conduct unbecoming an officer" and promptly suspended him for 60 days from the police force.

Commissioner Henry Skillman, who cast the only dissenting vote, declared that "after hearing the evidence, I think that Walker is absolutely innocent of the charges."

The charge against Walker had been placed by City Manager O. A. Bakhaus and Chief of Police Dudley McCloy, following an incident in connection with speeding and resisting arrest placed against the Lexington patrolman here in Louisville last month.

## WALKER ARRESTED

Louisville Police Captain Louis Snyder said that the car in which Walker and several companions were riding sped by him and several officers while they were giving a ticket to another speedster on the Shelbyville road just outside St. Matthews. Snyder said they gave chase and stopped the car, but Walker pulled a gun and resisted arrest. The police captain said he backed to the cruiser and radioed for help. When assistance arrived, he slipped behind Walker, while the other officers engaged him in conversation, and hit him over

Walker battered and bleeding was haled into court and later released by Judge Henry Thieman under a \$5,000 bond furnished by a professional bondsman. He was later fined \$50 in Criminal Court following a jury trial on charge of pointing a concealed weapon.

Mayor Tom Mooney of Lexington, announced that Walker's 60-day suspension is retroactive to September 13, the date the patrolman was suspended by Manager Bakhaus.



## Urge Voters to Make Negro Police an Issue

NEW ORLEANS, (ANP)—

Repercussions from overtures made to Negro voters of New Orleans and Louisiana by the Sam Jones aspirants for state offices in the Jan. 20 primary influenced a plan to make the employment of Negro police in New Orleans a principal factor of support. The plan was advanced by Weber Stevens, prominent civic leader, in an address to an Autocrat club vote rally last week *Sat. 1-3-48*.

Stevens related that the city administration is supporting Sam Jones for Governor and that this same city administration has failed to give adequate consideration to the Negro crime situation and the employment to Negro police as an approach to this situation. He said that Negroes should remember this issue when voting for a governor in January.

The employment of Negro police was recently revised when a committee headed by Leon Lewis, managing editor of the Negro South, made a study of the crime situation upon the suggestion of Mayor Morrison and Chief of Police Watters. The committee report to the Mayor and suggestions that a white committee by appointed have been ignored by the city administration. *1-3-48*

## Data Says 43 Cities Use Negro Policemen

NEW ORLEANS, La.—A total of 43 southern cities in 10 states have Negro policemen, the New Orleans Urban league revealed last week after a survey of the south. The Urban league's research found that a total of 240 Negroes served the law. *9-9-48*

Of this total, 25 are plainclothesmen, seven are policewomen and the rest are uniformed officers.

Three states have no colored lawmen. They are Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. Mobile, Ala., however, hires several "police porters" who clean the precinct stations and go "on duty" at Negro dances or meetings. Lake Providence, La., hire two Negroes as city night watchmen. They have arrest powers and patrol the colored section at nights.

The Urban league, along with other civic groups, is campaigning for Negro policemen in the city of New Orleans. It reported that colored officers in the south have proved highly satisfactory. They have been complimented by white people and colored.

According to the report, southern cities that do not hire colored policemen (this includes New Orleans) usually say:

"Colored people wouldn't have any respect for a Negro policeman. It takes a white policeman to have authority in a colored section. It will lead to race trouble. What if a Negro policeman tries to arrest a white person? White folks won't work on the same force with Negroes. The time's not ripe for such a movement."

In cities where colored men are already on the force the attitude is different. A Greensboro, N. C., official said:

"These men (colored policemen) are given exactly the same authority as the white officers. I am of the opinion there is no legal way to confer less authority on them. Once they have taken the oath of office, they have all the duties and responsibilities imposed by law."

## Urban League Checks Forces In Ten States

Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi Have No Race Lawmen

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IDEAL METHOD

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Florida has 11 cities with colored officers to lead the South. Its cities are Daytona Beach, Deland, Fort Myers, Miami, Sanford, Sarasota, Tampa, Ocala, Gainesville, Clearwater and Key West.

Other communities using Negro policemen are:

Ahoskie, Asheville, Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro, High Point, Raleigh and Winston-Salem, N. C.; Austin, Beaumont, Dallas, Galveston, (since 1870) Houston, San Antonio and Port Arthur, Tex.; Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Richmond and Roanoke, Va.

Lexington, Louisville and Owensboro, Ky.; Muskogee, Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla.; Chattanooga, Knoxville and Nashville, Tenn.; Atlanta and Savannah, Ga.; Summerton and Clover, S. C., and Little Rock, Ark.



# Urges Voters To Make Negro Police Issue In Louisiana

*Daily World*

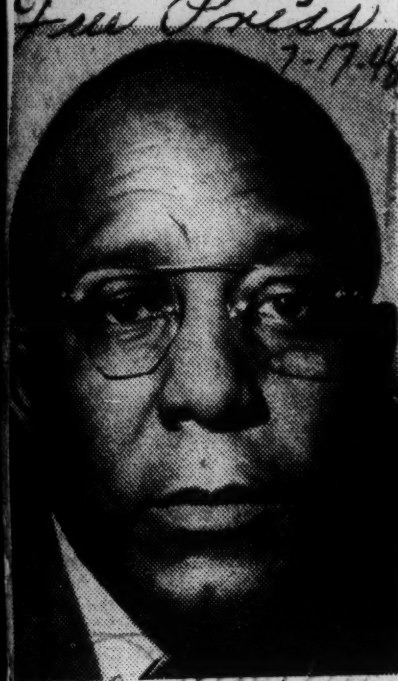
NEW ORLEANS—(ANP)—Repercussions from overtures made to Negro voters of New Orleans and Louisiana by the Sam Jones campaign for state offices in the Jan. 20 primary influenced a plan to make the employment of Negro police in New Orleans a principal factor of support. The plan was advanced by Weber Stevens, prominent civic leader, in an address to an Autocrat club vote rally last week.

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## Turns in Badge



Free Press Photo

Detective William M. Simmons, 46, retired Friday from the police force after 17 years of service. Retirement was caused by illness. Attached to the special investigation squad for several years, Simmons had been awarded 19 citations, 11 for arrests made as a result of investigations on his own time during furloughs and after hours. 7-17-48

## Offered State Police Posts

DETROIT, June 14—(NIPS)—It has been revealed that applications for posts with the Michigan State Police department are being accepted from Negroes who desire this type of employment. The only restriction, it is stated, is that all candidates for jobs must be veterans, and have certain physical requirements that have been established for the jobs. 6-18-48

Although the presence of political motivation is considered likely in some circles, it is felt in many quarters that the general pattern of accepting Negroes in hitherto restricted employment categories is being adopted more generally as a result of recent experiences in private industry.



"Junior Deputy" William Fox, Jr., credited with capture of a fugitive described by the FBI as "probably armed and very dangerous," receives a check for \$5 from Lloyd O. Bates, police chief, at Niles, Mich. The youth spotted a picture in a post office and told police the fugitive lived in near-by Benton Harbor. Police arrested the man, sought since 1946 on a federal car-theft charge.



SAMUEL WHITFIELD: Police captain of the Royal Oak town ship force. One of two Negroes in the nation holding that rank. A former Pontiac resident, now a frequent visitor. 6-12-48



**FOUR APPOINTED  
TO POLICE SCHOOL**

May third saw four more  
groes appointed to the St. Louis  
Police department after finishing  
the police school. Those receiv-  
ing appointments were William  
Brooks, of 3971 A West Bell  
Place, Frederick Clinton, of 4536  
Garfield avenue, Arle J. Lindsey,  
of 1728 Carr Drive, and Atkins  
W. Warren of 3936 Enright, ave-  
nue. These men will spend one  
year on probation before becom-  
ing regulars. 5-15-48

**COST \$50 TO SLUR  
NEGRO PATROLMAN**

Monday morning, Harvey Cra-  
mer (white) of 2110 Howard  
street, appeared in Judge George  
Grellner's court charged with being  
drunk on the street and resisting  
arrest. Cramer told Judge Grell-  
ner that he objected to being ar-  
rested by Negro officers, Fred  
Grimes and Frank Burse.

Judge Grellner was quick to  
point out to Cramer that the of-  
ficers were as good as he was  
and fined him \$50 and costs.



## Add 32 Negro Rookie Police

Thirty-two Negro men became members of "New York's finest" here last Saturday as Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander added 332 rookies to New York's police force of 17,650 men.

Mayor William O'Dwyer delivered the major address as the 332 policemen graduated into the ranks from the Police Academy in exercises at Irving School, New York, N. Y.

He warned the graduates against uses of force and violence and emphasized that color or race were to make no difference in their law enforcement.

"Don't speak to me of color," the Mayor said, "Affection and protection should be given to all unless they violate the law."

Among the policemen receiving diplomas was Charles T. Brown, whose father, Charles Brown of Brooklyn, has been a member of the Force for eighteen years.

## Charges Against "Mayor" Of Harlem Are Dismissed

NEW YORK — (NNPA) — City Magistrate Morris Plocowe on last Tuesday dismissed charges of disorderly conduct against the "mayor" of Harlem and reprimanded the policeman who arrested him.

Judge Plocowe dismissed the charges against Sherman Hibbitts, the "mayor" after he testified that Mounted Patrolman Robert Farley used abusive language in making the arrest, and had locked him in a cell without first removing a .32 caliber pistol from his shoulder holster. Hibbitts has a permit to carry the gun.

Hibbitts was arrested on last Friday night by Farley when he failed to show his driver's permit on Farley's request after Farley had found his car parked in a restricted area.

**PERMIT AT HOME** Hibbitts, who last month was elected "mayor" of Harlem, testified that he had failed to show his permit because he had left it at home, but when he showed Farley his "mayor" badge, Farley became abusive and took him to the police station. The courtroom laughed when testimony brought out by Samuel H. Gibson, Hibbitts' lawyer, showed that Farley and the desk sergeants at the 123rd street Precinct had searched Hibbitts and then locked him up without finding a revolver.

He was carrying in his shoulder holster. Both Farley and the desk sergeant testified that Hibbitts had been searched and his tie pin, belt and necktie removed "to prevent suicide" but admitted that neither had noticed he had a gun.

Police inspector Thomas B. Boylan testified that Hibbitts voluntarily turned the gun over to him in his cell when he found him there while making a tour of inspection.

**COURTROOM ROARS** Inspector Boylan made the courtroom rear when he told how he learned of Hibbitts arrest.

He said when he walked into the 123rd precinct he was told: "We got the mayor in jail." "Stop the gag," Boylan said he told his subordinates. He said when they told him that they actually had Hibbitts locked up, he said, "This is impossible," but with Hibbitts' cell to make sure.

Finding Hibbitts there, Boylan said, he immediately ordered him released and summoned to appear in court "like all respectable citizens should be treated." At that time, he testified, Hibbitts said to him, "Well, Inspector, they made a prisoner of me but I still have my gun" and turned the gun over to him.

Judge Plocowe ordered Farley and the mayor to shake hands before leaving his court and said he

wanted no "repercussions" over the incident in Harlem. He then told Farley that his had been poor police work in that he might have been killed by a more dangerous man who was locked up with a gun on his person.



**RECEIVES AWARD**—Patrolman Isaac P. Smith, a probationary officer at the 32nd Precinct, smiles happily as his wife, Susie, receives the Journal-American \$100 monthly award for heroism from Commissioner Wallander. Looking on are Smith's mother, Mrs. Olive B. Smith, second from right, and Mrs. Grace Burke, his aunt. Smith was cited for the role he played in saving a family of four who had been overcome by escaping gas. A veteran of World War II, Ptl. Smith has been attached to the 32nd Precinct since February.

## 250 Negro cops has New York

NEW YORK — New York has 250 Negro policemen, with one acting captain, three lieutenants, one acting lieutenant, 7 sergeants, 20 detectives and 40 plainclothesmen.

## Harlem Police Face Shakeup For Extortion

NEW YORK — City policemen, especially those in Harlem, faced

another shakeup this week after alleged shakedowns, said, "I'm sick and tired of Harlem policemen kicking these peoples' doors in, stealing their money and abusing Negroes. I'm fed up with it. We may as well bring the Constitution above 100th Street."

An inquiry was touched off last April 26 in Special Sessions Court when Attorney Speaks made accusations against Harlem uniformed and plainclothes policemen.

As a result of a current two-fold investigation, it was reported, one plainclothes policeman has been transferred to the uniformed ranks.

**"PROTECTION"** A spokesman for a Harlem operator said that the customary "protection" fee paid to police was \$15 a month; beat patrolman received \$2 daily; radio patrolmen, \$3 daily; beat plainclothesmen, \$5 daily, and sergeants, \$10 daily. Higher fees, the spokesman said, were paid to superior officers.

Mrs. Speaks, discussing the al-





*The Defender*  
**THIS COULDN'T HAPPEN IN ATLANTA.** In Yonkers, New York, last December a REAL policeman, Thomas Brooks (center) rushed into a WHITE social club in the midst of a fight in which a fireman and off-duty policeman (both white) had been killed, and rescued John Simmons (left) and John C. Hays, both white, from the fury of a mob that intended beating them to death. He

called the wagon and sent them to jail. If Brooks had been an Atlanta, Ga., "YMCA Policeman", he could not have performed this heroic act. He would have been reprimanded and discharged for arresting white men. Brooks, however, was praised by his captain and chief and appeared as a witness against the two whites at their trial for murder.—International News photo.

# Harlem Officer *Daily World* Receives Honors *Sat 5-5-48* at official city hall ceremonies.

By CONRAD CLARK  
NEW YORK—(ANP) — Patrol-First Lt. Henry Hermann, white, man Charles E. Jones, a World War II veteran who has been on the attached to Engine Co. No. 7, force for three years, attached to were honored guests at the monthly the 28th Police precinct, was one luncheon meeting of the associa- tion's board of directors in Yale of two city employees to receive the tion's board of directors in Yale first annual award of the Com- club the day before. The patrolman's meritorious service. The ward to lize department's honor committee had cited him because he engaged Jones was made Tuesday, May 25, in a gunbattle with an armed ro-

ber and overpowered him, while off duty on April 19. *3*

Hermann's award was for carrying an aged woman out of a burning and smoked-filled building. He will receive his medal at appropriate ceremonies from the fire department on June 16.

The medals, to be awarded annually, are donated to the police and fire departments by the association on behalf of the business men of the community in recognition of services performed by members of both departments.

**Slain N.Y. Officer's Family to Get Medal**  
*American-Baltimore*  
NEW YORK—The family of Patrolman *W. S. Paris*, killed by a burglar in the Bronx on March 11, is one of six families of local policemen slain in line of duty during 1947 to be awarded the Police Department Medal of Honor sometime in May, according to Police Commissioner Arthur W. Wallander.



33 1948  
HOW NEGRO POLICE WORKED  
OUT IN ONE SOUTHERN  
CITY

By Harold C. Fleming

NOTE—This article is reprinted from the New South, published by Southern Regional Council. We publish it to encourage ministers and churches to become more active in getting southern cities to employ Negro police.—EDITOR.

It might have been a scene in the municipal court of any Southern city. The defendant, a Negro man about forty years old, was accused of assault and battery, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest. The police officer who had made the arrest gave his testimony briefly and clearly. There was dignity and assurance in his bearing, in the way he wore his uniform and in the way he presented his testimony. One by one the witnesses—all Negroes—appeared before the court and testified. They held their heads high and spoke without hesitation. The defendant himself then pleaded drunkenness as an excuse for his acts. He was found guilty as charged and given a stiff jail sentence. The case was closed.

### Not Just Any Case

It might have been a routine case in the municipal court of any Southern city—except for one or two things. In the first place, the city was Greensboro, N. C. In the second place, the Negro witnesses were frank and co-operative and seemed eager to see that justice was done. This is not always true in Southern courtrooms. In the next place, the policeman knew what was expected of him and gave it simply and succinctly. His knowledge of proper courtroom procedure is not always

found among policemen, in the south or elsewhere. In the fourth place, the judge and the spectators were serious and attentive as the case was presented; they seemed to find it quite important that a Negro had attacked a member of his own race. And, finally, this case was not just any case in any courtroom because the policeman was a Negro.

This scene couldn't have taken place even in Greensboro, four years ago, for there were no Negro policemen there then. True, there had been talk of employing Negro policemen. In fact, the idea had been discussed for about fifteen years. But it had never been put into practice, because too many people felt that "it just wouldn't work." The reasons why it wouldn't work seemed to them self-evident.

"Colored people wouldn't have any respect for a Negro policeman," they said. "It takes a white policeman to have an authority in a colored section. Besides, it will lead to race trouble. What if a Negro policeman tries to arrest a white man? White folks won't stand for that."

### More Arguments

They had other arguments, too: Greensboro's white policemen wouldn't work on the same force with Negroes; it wouldn't be possible to find Negroes who were intelligent and dependable enough to trust with so much responsibility; and finally, of course, there was the inevitable protesting that using Negro policemen wasn't in keeping with Southern tradition.

But those who championed the proposal weren't to be put off so easily. Negro policemen were being used with great success in Charlotte, Raleigh, Winston-Salem, and other Southern cities. There were plenty of highly qualified Negroes who were willing to apply for the job if it were authorized. Far from opposing

### Policemen (North Carolina)

the General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. The Committee on Revision and Compilation knocked off the rough edges and it is now a part of our book of Discipline. Its operation is suspended until rules and procedures under which the court will operate shall be formulated, and approved by the next General Conference. After the rules and procedures submitted by the judges themselves and approved by the General Conference, the time honored authority of our general superintendents being administrators and cities in the nation having an army camp within the city limits and within walking distance of the center of town. At the time with which we are concerned, the camp served as an overseas replacement depot and housed between thirty and forty thousand men, both white and Negro. So, when the use of Negro police was being urged, especially difficult police problems existed in the city. These problems did not disappear overnight with the end of hostilities, for the camp later served as a separation center. The authorities knew that if a test were to be made it would be under trying conditions.

There were also favorable circumstances for proponents of the plan. Of Greensboro's 59,000 people, 16,000 or 27 per cent, were Negroes. Though Negro spokesmen had been urging the use of Negro police for fifteen years or more, the potential voting power of the Negro population had never been effectively used to help bring the move about. But in 1943 a relatively large number of Negro voters were registered. What is more, they were kept informed of the efforts their leaders were making and the response those efforts were receiving. In short, the strength of the Negro ballot was brought to bear on the question. This does

not mean that the Negro vote was the only important factor in the campaign for Negro police. But, more than any other one thing, it assured the proposal a fair hearing and serious consideration by city authorities.

Those who favored the employment of Negro police were also fortunate in having a man like City Manager Henry A. Yancey to deal with. Mr. Yancey who is now city manager of Charlotte, had previously managed 3 Southern cities with Negro populations ranging from 27 to 42 percent. His record was one of scrupulous fairness to all citizens, regardless of race or economic status. Nor was the idea of using Negro policemen new to him. He had come to Greensboro with a good deal of information on the subject. "I must admit," says Mr. Yancey, "that I was cool to the proposal at first. This was not for any reasons of prejudice on my part; I had only recently left Durham, where I had already put the plan into effect. I simply wasn't convinced that the Greensboro public was sufficiently prepared for such a move."

### Trial Appointment

But it wasn't long before Mr. Yancey decided that the proposal at least warranted an experiment, and in October, 1943, the City Council, upon his recommendation and that of the chief of police, authorized the appointment of two Negro officers on a trial basis. This is how Mr. Yancey describes the result:

"The white population accepted the action with scarcely a comment; it is certainly true to say that there was no protest. The Negroes received it with great acclaim, and the press, both local and in the surrounding states, hailed it as a 'step forward.'"

Obviously the ultimate success or failure of the experiment depended in a great measure upon the caliber of the men selected, and we set about to obtain the best possible talent. Naturally all applications were received and considered. Our requirements for appointment had come this by enlisting the aid of the January, 1944.



"These men were given careful admiration of the white officers, and lice officers. training and instruction by the best on a number of occasions they have "I don't like bullies," he says, officers we had on the force, for a received special praise and commen-"and I don't believe a policeman period of six weeks. They were dation from their superior officers ever gets too old to go to school." then assigned to the plain clothes for meritorious conduct under very The Negro policemen have proved department for approximately four trying circumstances." more than satisfactory on both months, after which time they were What about the claim of the skept- counts. "They've shown tact and placed in uniform and assigned to tics that Negroes would not cooper- common sense in performing their duty in the largest strictly Negro ate with officers of their own race? duties," says the Chief. "All six of section of the city. The answer is apparent to anybody them are college men, and they who will take the trouble to stroll learn quickly and thoroughly."

### Permanent Policy

"As I have already said, they were appointed on a trial basis. However, on March 1st, 1945, we appointed two additional Negro officers and since that time two more have been added to the force. This in itself was enough to remove any doubt as to the efficiency and usefulness of these men and established as a permanent policy the use of Negro officers in Greensboro.

"These men were given exactly the same authority that the white officers have. I am of the opinion that there is no legal way to confer less authority upon them. Once they have taken the oath of office, they have all the duties and responsibilities imposed by law. We never entertained the thought of restricting their authority. They have worked only in the Negro sections, and their activity has been governed only by instructions, training, and what good judgment on their part would dictate.

"There have been a few cases where they were forced to give a traffic citation and to make an arrest of a white person, where the circumstances were such that they would otherwise been guilty of neglect of duty. In each of these cases their attitude and demeanor has been such as to reflect credit upon themselves and the department and no untoward incidents have resulted.

"Before we got Negro policemen," a course in race relations has some- says the Rev. J. J. Green, a Negro minister, "East Market Street was so dangerous you didn't dare walk down it with your wife. Now the street is unimaginably changed. You don't even hear bad language any more."

The Negroes of Greensboro are not the only ones who are proud of the Negro officers. Police Chief L. L. Jarvis needs little urging to tell you how well they have performed. "The work of these men has been excellent, equal in every respect to that of the white officers. They have gained the confidence, respect, and

some pretty definite ideas about po-

ments. "They've shown tact and common sense in performing their duties," says the Chief. "All six of them are college men, and they learn quickly and thoroughly." Chief Jarvis has been consulted many times by officials of Southern cities contemplating the employment of Negro police. He has one answer for all of them. "If the right men are picked and given the right kind of training and support, only one thing can result—a better and more efficient police department." According to Chief Jarvis, any city which has a large Negro population and has no Negro police is simply denying itself the chance to have better law enforcement.

Greensboro's Negroes are proud of their policemen, for as the Negro officers walk past on their tours they are greeted on every side with friendliness and respect.

### A Transformed Street

One thing the casual observer might not realize, however, is the transformation that has taken place on East Market Street in the past four years.

"Before we got Negro policemen," a course in race relations has some-

thing to do with it. After four years of using Negro policemen, Greensboro no longer looks on them as an innovation, but has accepted them as a natural and normal part of the life of the city.

This attitude is perhaps best summed up by the comment of a local newspaperman.

"Negro police?" he said. "They're not news in Greensboro, any more than white policemen are."

He said a moment and then added, "It might be news, though, to remind our people that we haven't al-

## Colored Police Named To Force In Gastonia, N. C.

*Journal Guide*  
Feb 2-14-48  
Special to Journal and Guide

GASTONIA, N. C.—Gastonia, a textile town in the heart of Piedmont North Carolina with a population of 21,311, has joined the list of towns and cities of the South that now have Negro policemen.

The first Negro patrolmen to be named here, Officers Adam Williams, James Brower and Marion Burris, began patrolling the Negro sections of the city Sunday, Feb. 1.

The employment of these officers was the result of the concerted efforts of the Gastonia Daily Gazette, a local daily publication, and the United Negro Civic Organizations led by G. L. "Tiny" Thompson.

The officers' work has thus provoked the mayor, city councilmen, as well as the local Chief of Police to initiate efforts to secure more Negro patrolmen.

The employment of three more officers is being considered.

### High Point Adds More Colored Police

*Journal Guide*  
Feb 2-14-48  
Staff Correspondence

HIGH POINT, N. C.—The appointment of two additional men to the police force here last week brings to four the total number of Negro officers on the local force.

The new appointees are Travis Whitaker, 34, and James E. Saulter, 24.

Mr. Whitaker was formerly employed as a waiter at both the Sherwood Hotel and the Emerywood Country Club and studied at A. and T. College, Greensboro, N. C. He served in the Army aviation engineers during World War II for three years and five months in the South Pacific and on Okinawa. He is married and has no children.

Mr. Saulter was formerly employed at Tate Furniture Company and attended Winston-Salem Teachers College. During World War II he saw service with the combat engineers in the states and in the South Pacific Theater.

Both men assumed their duties September 1.

The other two Negro members of the force are B. Steele and Oriel Leake.



## Police Lieutenant

### Starts 42nd Year

The younger Harris resides in Mt. Clemens, Mich.

*Daily Blade*  
TOLEDO, O. — (ANP) — Det. Lt. E. T. Harris, aide to Edward DeAngelo, public safety director, began his 42nd year in the Toledo police department this month.

Lt. Harris retired in 1941, but returned to the service 18 months later when a law directing policemen to give up active duty at the age of 65 was declared unconstitutional.

*Atlanta, Ga.*  
A member of the detective bureau from 1912 until 1941, Lt. Harris' faculty of remembering names, faces, and circumstances has helped solve quickly some of the city's most notorious crimes. At one time, with the rank of acting captain, he led a special squad in a drive to clean up vice in one section of the city.

*Oct. 3-6-48*  
Before joining the Toledo police force, the veteran sleuth was a member of traveling musical comedies. He came to Toledo in 1900 when he married. He has one son, Ivan, a foreman at the Chrysler plant in Detroit. The younger Harris resides in Mt. Clemens, Mich.

## Lieutenant On Police Force

### For 41 Years

*Journal Blade*  
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## Marian Anderson's Uncle Leads Philly Racket Busters

PHILADELPHIA — In all Negro police squad, under the direction of the uncle of famous contralto Marian Anderson, was credited at year's end with a number of arrests in West Philadelphia, this city's Negro center.

Detective Sgt. Richard Anderson is in charge of the unit of 33 plainclothesmen, first such outfit in the country when it was organized four years ago. In 1947, the group was responsible for 1,537 arrests, 92 percent of which resulted in convictions. Members of the unit are chosen for special intelligence, industry and physical condition. Anderson has been on the force 12 years. 1-17-48

## Philadelphia Police Squad Sets Record

PHILADELPHIA — (NNPA) — An all-colored police squad, the first such unit in the country when it was organized four years ago, was credited last Monday with a 1947 record of 1,537 arrests, 92 percent of which resulted in convictions.

The group is known as Detective Sgt. Richard Anderson's Special Squad for the officer who leads its thirty-three plainclothes policemen. He has been on the force twelve years, and is an uncle of Marian Anderson, the celebrated contralto. The squad's outstanding arrests included three for murder, two for arson, fifty-seven for burglary and robbery and fourteen for rape. As a result of these activities, an outbreak of crime in the western section of the city early in 1947 was brought to an abrupt halt.

Members of the unit are picked for special intelligence, industry and physical condition and they work without regard for normal hours of duty. The entire city is their beat. They do their own investigating and are responsible only to the Public Safety Director, James H. Malone, and the Police Superintendent, Howard A. Sutton. 1-16-48

The special squad men usually travel in pairs; but their activity becomes concentrated, however, when an unusual volume of crime in any one area develops.



*Southern States*  
*Daily World*  
**Fail To Hire**  
*Atlanta, Ga.*  
**Negro Policemen**  
*Wed. 5-26-48*

BIRMINGHAM ALA. —(SNS)—  
 Louisiana and Mississippi are the  
 three remaining Southern States  
 which do not employ Negro police-  
 men.

This fact was revealed in a re-  
 cent study made public by the  
 Southern Regional Council, head-  
 quarters in Atlanta, Ga.

The SRC report reveals that 51  
 cities in 10 Southern States em-  
 ploy 275 Negro policemen.

Atlanta and Nashville recently  
 hired Negro policemen. In Birming-  
 ham there has been a growth of in-  
 terest in employing Negro police.  
 However, there has never been a  
 sustained, directed, leadership-wide  
 campaign for Negro police officers.

**NEGRO POLICE IN THE SOUTH**

*The Christian Index*  
*Jackson, Tennessee*  
 FORTY-SIX southern cities and towns employ Negro  
 police and detectives. In every instance city au-  
 thorities report decided decrease in crime and improve-  
 ment of race relations. Miami, Florida claims crime  
 decreased 40% as a result of employing Negroes on po-  
 lice force. *Thurs 4-8-48*

Police brutality almost vanishes where Negro police  
 are employed. The mere presence of Negro officers  
 have decreased crime in Negro communities. White  
 police welcome them because they find that Negro police  
 are a great help in keeping law and order especially  
 where Negroes are involved.

Our law enforcement is good but it can still be better.  
 Since a large portion of the population of many south-  
 ern cities is Colored, it is without doubt that we should  
 have Colored police. There is increasing evidence that  
 many southern cities are seeking to be fair to all citi-  
 zens and provide for their welfare. The police force,  
 the city officials, the city tax payers and voters should  
 appreciate making a better city as a result of having Ne-  
 gro citizens on the police force. Suppose we urge our  
 home town to consider employing Negro police and of-  
 ficers of the peace. *Thurs. 4-8-48*



## Florence Women Seek Colored Policemen

FLORENCE, S. C. — Among the five programs adopted by the Florence Federation of Women's Clubs at their meeting last Wednesday was the provision for co-operating with the local ministerial alliance in securing colored police officers for the city. A committee of women was named to work with ministers.

The other 1948 projects approved included: sponsorship and organization of a Girl Scouts Troops, a city wide recreation program, planning for the state and district federation meetings, and a baby contest, funds from which will be used to help finance the overall 1948 program.

## Negroes Ask Police Of Own Race Delegation Makes Plea To Council

Columbia's city council today heard an appeal from a group of Negro citizens asking for the appointment of Negro policemen in the city.

Led by the Rev. M. S. Gordon, pastor of the First Calvary church, the Negroes asserted that law officials of their own race would reduce racial tension, check juvenile delinquency, grant greater safety for school children, and give Negroes a greater pride in the development of Columbia.

Their request came on the heels of pending applications for police and fire department jobs by four Negroes, three on Saturday, one on Monday. This is the first time that any Negroes have indicated they would apply for these jobs through city civil service regulations, city hall employees said.

Mayor Frank C. Owens, who is in charge of the police department, told the group before council to-

day that he would give "every consideration to Negroes who qualified" before the city civil service board.

"I won't promise today to appoint any individual to the police department," he said, "but I will obligate myself to give full consideration to Negroes who can pass physical, mental and age requirements."

### Would Be 'On Trial'

"I can assure you that Negroes will stand just as good a chance to be appointed to the police department as any other group of men," the mayor continued. "I think it is very important that the most level-headed young Negroes should apply for these jobs. The first ones would naturally be on trial with Negroes, as well as the general public."

He outlined procedures of civil service regulations, which provide that applicants be between 21 and 30 years of age, pass a written test, and be not less than five feet, nine inches tall, and weigh at least 160 pounds. The mayor and city council appoint men to the department from a list of availables.

"After annexing some of the outlying sections," the mayor pointed out, "we will need more policemen. If Negroes have qualified themselves with the civil service board, they will be eligible for appointment."

### Quotes Bible

One Negro arose to quote the Biblical axiom, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" to city council members, and another asked for "a favorable reaction" from council before other young Negroes applied for policemen's jobs.

### Swimming Pool Buildings

City council today awarded a contract for accessory buildings at the Maxcy Gregg swimming pool to the low bidder, General Construction company, for \$81,907. These buildings will include dressing rooms, a refreshment stand, and recreational sections.

Three taxi drivers, each of whom had some limb, or part of a limb missing, asked waiver of the new ordinance requiring all taxi drivers to pass physical examinations and have all limbs. They said they had been driving here for a number of years. Council ordered them to pass special driving tests given by the city traffic department this afternoon.

Council also consented today to waiver of requirements on housing, so that veterans' housing projects at Benedict college may be continued.

A transfer of 50 taxi licenses was granted from Sam W. Parham to the Checker Cab company, Inc.

### Text of Appeal

Text of the Reverend Gordon's appeal for Negro policemen today is as follows:

"I am here to renew before city council an old appeal. It is our request for Negro policemen in the city of Columbia. Personally, I am

interested in the progressive development of this city. It follows that those things which tend to impede the development of the people, and subsequently to retard the progressive development of our city, we must seek to improve or remove. To this end we appeal for Negro policemen in our town.

"Many reasons might be enumerated as to the wisdom of this step. I wish to point out a few.

### Better Race Relations

"1. Negro policemen would reduce race tension and improve race relations. One does not need to be an alarmist to know that these are days of tension. One simply has to be a realist. The attentive ear, the open mind, the alert person must know something of the restlessness of people everywhere. Now I do not contend that a few Negro policemen in the city of Columbia would solve all of the problems, remove all inequities, all tensions. But I am convinced that Negro policemen would help the city.

"All of us know that ever so often some member of the Negro groups runs afoul of the law. Something happens in the process of the arrest which is described as police brutality. The description may be correct in some cases; in others, incorrect. But this much is true: If a Negro officer were forced to take the same step in line of duty, there would be no race angle to it. Thus the Negro officer would reduce race tension.

### Negro MP's

"It is a matter of record that we have profited by the presence of Negro policemen in Columbia. The Citizens' committee was born out of protest against the brutality of white MP's in this area; subsequently, a large group of white MP's were transferred and a group of Negro MP's served for the duration of the war. For a city its size, with Fort Jackson so near, with people of widely different background and culture, I am sure that we had minimum difficulty. We are convinced that Negro policemen on Washington street, in Waverly, and in all of the sections thickly populated with Negroes would have the same effect on Columbia that Negro MP's had on Columbia during the war. We want Negro policemen because we are convinced that they will reduce tension and improve race relations.

### Safety For Children

"2. Negro policemen would provide greater safety for our children. School bells will be ringing again soon. Our streets will be filled with children. Many of them will be off to school for the first time. All of them will be happy. But a shadow always hangs over the joy of the school season, the shadow of heavier traffic, accidents, untimely deaths. We are grateful that some improvements have been made in protecting children. Warning signs, safety devices, policemen at crossings, etc. Some of these have come late, after

accidents and at least one death. But I would like to see Negro policemen leading children across dangerous streets where recently white policemen have been holding up their hands against traffic when the lights change. That would be more nearly in line with the way white officers handle the problem where white children are involved.

### Juvenile Delinquency

"3. Negro policemen would deter juvenile delinquency. It is alarming that crime among children and young people is rising so rapidly. Certainly this group of citizens assembled before you is not unmindful of the fact that there is far too much crime among Negroes. Columbia certainly has more than its share. I am aware that many economic and sociological reasons can be given for the upsurge in crime, but I am convinced that our immediate need is to put a different spirit in children.

"Specifically, Negro children need the presence of Negro policemen in the community to build up respect for law and order. It is a sad but true fact that a Negro never comes into contact with an officer of the law until he violates the law. The result is often a negative attitude toward the law, fear of the law, a will to beat the law. We believe the Negro policemen would be the proverbial 'ounce of prevention which is better than the pound of cure.'

### Good Citizenship

"4. Negro policemen, finally, would be a step forward in our attempt to educate for good citizenship. As a rule, people appreciate what belongs to them more than they appreciate what belongs to someone else. We want to say truly 'Columbia is our town.' We want to take increasing pride in its development. We want to find real meaning in our courses in civics and government. We want to be a part of the citizenship of our city."

"There are some 200 Negro police officers serving in Southern cities. North Carolina has at least 18; Florida has 26; Kentucky has 34; Oklahoma 43, Tennessee seven and Texas 52. I understand that Clover, S. C., has one; I know Conway has two. In each case, the chief of police is loud in his praise of Negro policemen.

"Columbia may be better than many of the towns with Negro policemen. We certainly don't think it is worse. So, gentlemen, in the interest not only of our racial group but in the interest of Columbia as a whole, we ask for Negro policemen.

"We appeal for no narrow privilege, but for privilege that will help us better to perform our responsibilities as citizens. That tensions may be reduced and race relations improved; that the lives of our children may be provided greater safety; that juvenile delinquency might be checked and crime dealt with at the root; that Negro people, young and adult, might take greater pride in the de-

velopment of Columbia, and might be led to obey and respect the law. That these things might be, I express to you our appeal and request for Negro policemen in the city of Columbia."

## Letters

### COLUMBIA FREE OF ASSAULT CASES

To the Editor of The Record:

As citizens of Columbia, we read with interest your editorial titled "Negro Policemen Could Aid City Law Enforcement". This appeared in the Columbia Record on Saturday, September 11, 1948.

Being a layman and unqualified to discuss the merits or demerits of Negro policemen in our law enforcement agencies, I shall not go into that question. You base your argument for Negro policemen in the city on the necessity for preventing and solving crimes of violence against white women charged to Negroes in the Columbia area.

If you care to check the records you will find that these crimes have not occurred within Columbia but have occurred in Richland county. The city of Columbia has only one such reported case of this nature in the past several years. Upon investigation it was found that this involved a white woman and a white man and there was no basis for the complaint.

Since these crimes have been committed in the county, which area is within the jurisdiction of the sheriff's office, your criticism should be directed toward the agency. On the basis of your argument and in view of the above facts your recommendations in regards to Negro policemen should also be directed towards the sheriff's office.

Why not give the Columbia police department for the job they are doing the credit that is due them?

WALTER H. SMITH.

Columbia.

Editor's note: Mr. Smith missed the connotation involved in The Record's deliberate choice of the word "area" instead of "city" and being a layman, as he says, does the police of Columbia some injustice in limiting their activities and services.

Mr. Smith also errs in assuming that The Record's argument for the employment of Negro police in Columbia is based solely or even chiefly upon the fact that Negro police

would be of help in solving crimes involving Negroes. This is only one of the arguments—and not an unimportant one from the point of view of the white citizens—for the employment of Negro police.

The Record used the word "area" because it knew that none of the crimes to which it referred had occurred in the city of Columbia. Some of the attacks occurred in Richland county outside the city of Columbia and some in Lexington county. But The Record knew, as

apparently Mr. Smith did not, that the city police of Columbia do not confine their activities exclusively to crimes committed in Columbia but have frequently been of help and assistance to other law enforcement officers not only in Richland county and South Carolina but in other states even. The Record, of course, was not criticizing the Columbia police department. To its knowledge, at



# Two Pass Police Test

*Light House + Express*  
**For Columbia Force**  
*June 12-19-48*

Two Columbia men, Claude B. Pearson, 29, of 1725 Gadsden St., and George Leslie Eleazer, 26, of 1944 Lady St., having passed the department examinations given several days ago, have been certified to the waiting list of the department, it was announced late Tuesday.

The announcement followed a report to Mayor Frank C. Owens of results of the exam by the city civil service commission. The men were among four Negroes and six whites taking the test. Three of the whites passed also.

## HAVE SIMILAR BACKGROUNDS

The men, who may see active duty soon as the first in modern South Carolina city government, have similar backgrounds. In fact, so similar are these in many respects that a story on one would apply generally to the other.

Both were born within 25 miles of Columbia, from farming families. Mr. Eleazer in Lexington county, near Chapin, and Mr. Pearson in Fairfield county, at Jenkinsville.

Both were inspired to become policemen while living temporarily in northern cities, Eleazer between ages of 2 to 11 and Pearson after finishing high school. Both are graduates of Booker Washington high school here and have no further credits in academic training, though Mr. Pearson did start a course at New York University. Both are members of the Masonic Lodge and follow similar trades, Mr. Pearson being a cement mason, and, Mr. Eleazer an apprentice brickmason.

Both men are six feet, two inches tall, Eleazer weighing about 180 and Pearson 170 pounds. Both belong to an A. F. of L. trade union. Both are married.

Neither knew the other until after results of the examinations were announced. They saw each other the first time when they took the examination, but didn't know the other's name. By chance, they met on the street and introduced themselves. This took place the day the results were announced but neither knew of them at the time, communications having been mailed to their homes, or had been received there since they had left.

## ONE A VETERAN

About the biggest difference is in their religious faiths. Mr. Pearson is a Baptist and Mr. Eleazer a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. And a foresight of how well they might get along may be Eleazer's statement when told his companion was a Baptist. "How can he be a Baptist?" was his retort.

Eleazer is a veteran of World War II, having served with the Sea Bees of the U. S. Navy from May of 1943 to November of 1945, being assigned to land duty under General Douglas MacArthur in the Solomons and on Okinawa. He was a stevedore and came out of service weighing over 200 pounds. Person was employed as a rigger in the Charleston Navy Yard and while he wanted combat duty, the scarcity of riggers caused him to be deferred each of four times he reached "class A" status.

Another difference is that Mr. Pearson, alone, has children. He married the former Miss Almarine Shivers of Valdosta, Ga., and New York City in New York in 1939. They have two daughters, Sandra, 7, and Glenice, 5.

Mr. Eleazer married the former Miss Vangelina Mayers of Little Mountain, December 24, 1946. They have no children.

## PEARSON TO LOSE MONEY

For Pearson, placement on the city police force will mean a huge reduction in pay. This was his main concern. "I haven't made less than \$5,500 a year since 1941," he said.

For Eleazer, assignment would be an increase from his present approximately \$1,500 a year, although as a full-fledge brickmason his pay would more than double itself.

Patrolmen on the Columbia force begins at \$180 a month for the first six months. The second six months they are paid \$190 monthly, for a first year income of \$2,220. After the first year they attain the highest pay, which is \$200 monthly, or \$2,400 a year.

## PEARSON'S BACKGROUND

Pearson was christened Claude Benjamin Pearson, born Sept. 19, 1919 to the late Melvin and Ruby Hollis Pearson, at Jenkinsville, moving to Ridgewood at the age of four with his parents and family. Mrs. Pearson lives in her home now in Ridgewood.

Mr. Pearson, who has six brothers and four sisters, one, Robert Pearson of the Gadsden street address an employee at the Veterans Hospital, attended the Waverly school and Booker Washington, graduating from the latter in 1936. He lived in New York City from 1937 to 1941. While there he enrolled in the Delaney Police Training Academy and later took an examination for the New York department, scoring 97.75 on the test. However, not having college credit, he was behind the first 3,600 applicants, most of whom got bonus points for one or more years of college training. Sometime later, after draft calls and war work depleted the department's active officers, he was called to duty but declined because he

himself was making more money than the duty paid.

He has lived in Columbia since returning home in 1941 and said he applied largely because, "I am interested in good government and clean living. My people could benefit a lot from both of these in their various communities." The tough New York Negro cops inspired him, he said.

## THEY LAUGHED AT ELEAZER

George Leslie Eleazer, born July 18, 1922, son of William and Carrie Johnson Eleazer on their 27 acre farm, near Chapin, is an example of "they laughed when he" anie. His family moved to Detroit when he was about two years old, returning to South Carolina in 1933. He was 11 then. The colored cops in Detroit were his idols, his dream, and although he was back home where there were none, he kept his dream.

One in the elementary school he attended near Chapin, Mrs. McGill, mother of the late E. H. McGill, president of Allen University ahead of president S. R. Higgins, and Eleazer's teacher, was trying to inspire her little charges to great accomplishments. She went down the list, asking what each pupil wanted to be. There were many white collar answers but when she reached little Eleazer, he blurted out "policeman."

The class crackled. Even little children knew that was impossible. And until the chance came and he made it, he had gone along a little ashamed that he had declared for the improbable.

Eleazer studied for a while at Harbison Institute at Irmo and wound up his high school education at Booker Washington, graduating in 1942. The next year we went into the Navy, returning home in 1945 and living in that section until he and his wife into Columbia in July of 1947. He has one brother, Fred Eleazer, who lives next door at 1926 Lady St.

# Four Negroes Take Exam For Columbia Police Roles

*Daily Worker*  
*June 11-19-48*  
COLUMBIA, S. C. — (SNS) — Four young men took examinations at City Hall here Monday for positions on the city police department, if they earn the right on the basis of their scores.

While there were numerous reports that some would also seek places in the city fire department, none qualified for the exams, Mayor Frank C. Owens' office said.

And although the angle wasn't specifically referred to by this spokesman for the mayor's office, it is believed that more than four men had filed applications for the police examination but only that

The citizens had pointed out, among other things, that employment of the officers would increase greater appreciation and cooperation for law and order.

number complied with regulations. The names of the applicants were withheld, pending a report on the examinations by the City Civil Service Commission, which is expected to submit its findings in about ten days.

## CITY APPROVES OFFICERS

This step toward employing Negro officers here follows city council action of several weeks ago, when in response to an appeal from colored citizens the council voted unanimously to employ colored officers, provided they qualified on regular examinations.



# Success Seen For Negro Police If Care Marks Their Selection

By BILL CALDWELL

A prediction of success for the plan to employ negro police in Memphis was made yesterday by white and negro business and spiritual leaders. But the comments carried one universal reservation—that extreme care be taken in the selection of negro police personnel.

Announcement of a decision to give negro police a trial in negro districts was made Thursday night by Commissioner Boyle. It followed a study of the commercial aspects of experiences in other Southern cities employing negro police.

Each person asked to comment voiced approval of the statement by Commissioner Boyle that qualifications for negro officers will be the same as those for whites. They emphasized that this is particularly important in view of the fact that negroes in police uniforms have not been seen in Memphis for many years and that they may be called on for more than usual tact and diplomacy on some occasions.

## Greater Co-operation

The probability of greater respect for and co-operation with law officers by negroes when the uniform is worn by one of their own race was foreseen by J. A. Fowler, executive director of the Memphis Housing Authority, speaks from his experience as director of three Memphis housing projects in which more than 2300 negro families live.

"Managers, engineers, clerks—all but the top officials—of these housing projects are negro," Mr. Fowler noted. "And this arrangement, which has existed from the start, 11 years ago, has proved entirely satisfactory. By having negro employees to deal with negro tenants we have achieved excellent co-operation in this case," he continued. "I think the same thing may be expected of negro police if they are carefully selected and adequately trained."

The move "will prove a forward step in helping keep the peace of the city" in the opinion of Rev. R. V. Johnson, president of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Alliance. This organization, composed of negro ministers, is one of several which petitioned city officials to give negro police a trial. Their action followed several instances of reported brutality to negroes at the hands of white officers.

Rev. Johnson, who is pastor of Collins Chapel Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, said "we should not back up one inch in the qualifications for negro officers. We should accept only those who measure up in every respect, in background as well as education."

"Negro policemen are well worth every consideration, particularly since there is such a large negro population in Memphis," according to William E. Lamb, president of the Union Railway. "While the move must be made with tact and care," he said, "I thoroughly approve of it and believe the possi-

rector of the Personnel and Efficiency Division, said he interviewed about 20 negroes, but only seven qualified to the extent that he could give them an application form.

The negroes sought application after announcement by City Commissioner Boyle that the use of negro police would be given a trial.

Inspector Raney said the seven negroes receiving applications, must fill them out and submit them along with their letters of recommendation. They will then be interviewed by Mayor Pleasants, Commissioner Boyle, Police Chief Seabrook and Inspector Raney.

The inspector will continue to receive applications for the negro police jobs.

## Name Those Who Actually Got Nashville Its Police

NASHVILLE, — One of the greatest achievements in the progress made in recent years in the South is the selection and appointment by Mayor Thomas L. Cummings of Nashville of seven colored members of the Nashville police force.

After the appointees were sworn in at Pride of Tennessee Elks Lodge, they were presented at Ryman's auditorium where before an audience of thousands, Roscoe C. Grant, chairman of the committee which was responsible for the Mayor's decision to make appointments of the policemen. This committee advised Mayor Cummings not as a pressure group but as citizens of Neasville interested in the good name of the city and as friends of the Mayor in his labors and accomplishments.

The committee which won the mayor over, in addition to Grant, was composed of Dr. E. L. Price, Miss Marie Mayberry, Geo. D. Sisney, Jasper Patton, Rev. Dr. Hill, Dearwood McCord and Miss Mabel McKay, all noted for their success.

Dr. Henry Allen Boyd, Dr. I. L. Moore and the Mayor's right-hand man, W. B. (Pie) Hardison, were also helpful in urging these appointments.

Grant is 6th district member of the Republican State Committee, recently elected delegate from the Nashville district to the Republican National Convention and is president of the powerful David-

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Coming just prior to a mass meeting on the same issue by a militant group called the South Block, Mayor Thomas L. Cummings announced Wednesday night that Negro policemen will be added to Nashville's police force.

Four have already been named and three more are to be selected at a later date.

The Mayor's announcement, made before a group of Negro citizens in the Council Chamber, will make Nashville the forty-third major Southern city to employ Negro policemen.

## 54 Towns In South Hire 279 Police

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—(ANP)—The annual report released by the Southern Regional council here last week contained an item that 279 Negroes are employed as law enforcement officers in 54 Southern cities, that the employment of Negro police has shown a steady increase during the past year. Eight cities and 43 Negro police officers were added to the list.

Of the latest total, 248 are uniformed policemen, 23 are plain-clothesmen and eight are police-women. Interracial organizations throughout the country have agreed that the policy of hiring Negro police officers in southern cities has been one of the largest factors in lowering the crime rate of colored areas and in decreasing the likelihood of racial friction and tension.

Mississippi and Louisiana are the only states which do not employ Negro policemen. Florida leads in the number of cities having Negro policemen. Eleven of its towns have adopted the policy. Texas has a wide margin in the number employed—60.

Alabama and South Carolina have no major cities employing Negro policemen. Capitals of all Southern States, except Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, Louisiana and Kentucky, now use Negroes.

The rapid spread of the practice of hiring Negro police is seen in the fact that of 50 southern cities, nine employed them before 1930; seven between 1930-39; 11, 1940-44; and 23, 1945-48.

Nashville, one of the recent employers of Negro officers, is al-

praise the Negro officers, who have definitely made themselves "felt" in the Beale Street area where they were first "tried out," but he also announced the placing into operation of the city's first Negro police squad car. The officers were assigned to squad car duty in the Orange Mount district on Thanksgiving night, Thursday, Nov. 25th.

The two colored officers assigned to the care are Patrolman Wendell

## Negro Officers Assigned To Squad Car 62 Following Good Showing On Beale Street

This Police Department in more than a generation was voiced by City Commissioner Joseph Bowley Friday for the effective assignment of the six-man walk patrol of the first Negro police-men to be appointed by the mem-

son County Voters League.

Many claimants of the honor of bringing about the appointment of the colored policemen have risen to boast of "making the mayor" take steps, but Mayor Cummings, who is anti-pressure, has said that he was moved to act after conferring with the committee to which he credits not only the appointments of the colored policemen of Nashville but also so much of the many progressive things he has done as mayor of all the people.

Ovation after ovation was given Mayor Cummings as he sat on the platform of Ryman's when in a style that was born and will die with Roscoe Simmons, the greatest speaker, praised the mayor and Nashville for having advanced the cause of citizenship and spoke of the Grant Committee as the "know-how" organization.

Mayor Cummings was visibly affected and waited to thank Simmons for as he said, "a speech that will never be forgotten in Nashville."

## WHITE LAWBREAKERS' ARREST BAN IN CHATTANOOGA ATTACKED

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—(ANP)—The local branch of the NAACP and the Businessmen's League here last week, asked for a change in the city's policy that led to 15-day suspension of a colored policeman for arresting a white man for drunkenness.

## Nashville Gets Negro Policemen



Robinson and Patrolman Ernest Winters.

*Sues 11-30-48*  
Their territory is bounded on the north by Southern, on the South by Park, on the east by Josephine and on the west by Airways. They will be on duty in the car from 6 p. m., until 2 a. m., each day. The car is designated Squad Car 52. It is equipped with two-way radio.

## SQUAD CAR OPERATED BY NEGRO POLICEMEN

*The Commercial Appeal*  
First Motorized Unit Patrols

### Orange Mound Area

*Memphis Press*  
Memphis first negro police squad car has gone into operation in the Orange Mound district, City Commissioner Boyle said yesterday. *Sat 11-27-48*

A six-man negro walking patrol has been successfully patrolling the Beale Street section several weeks. Commissioner Boyle said: "They are doing an excellent job on Beale."

The newly-assigned squad car went into operation Thursday night, the commissioner said. Their territory is bounded on the north by Southern, on the south by Park, on the east by Josephine and on the west by Airways.

Two negro officers are on duty in the car from 6 p. m. until 2 a. m. each day. The car is designated Squad Car 52. It is equipped with two-way radio.

The city has hired nine negro police officers for work in areas where the population is predominately negro. They handle only violations involving negroes. In instances where white persons are involved they await arrival of white police officers. *Sat 11-27-48*

## Negro Police For Memphis

*The Commercial Appeal*  
THE city government's announcement that negro policemen will be employed in Memphis for service among negro citizens marks a far forward step in the progress of this city.

It can and should be a means for eliminating many irritations and the medium through which an infinitely happier city can be built.

Much will depend upon the quality of co-operation given by all Memphians, and especially those citizens who have sought to share in a tremendously important civic responsibility.

It is not a "cure-all." It has nothing to do with programs advocated by radical politicians of the Communist, carpet-bag variety. It has nothing to do with politics.

*Memphis, Tenn.*  
It is purely and simply a matter of equity and one involving improvement

of police efficiency.

*Sues 9-10-48*  
THE decision was reached by Mayor PLEASANTS and Police and Fire Commissioner BOYLE and announced by the latter in his capacity as acting chief executive during the convalescence of the mayor.

*Commercial Appeal*  
If Commissioner BOYLE says a thing will be done, it will be done. THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL knows him too well to question his word, his honesty or his courage. It has no fault to find with the plans as he has announced them.

The Police Department is going to take this significant change "in stride" and we would have no deviation from that.

*arrival*  
Standard police procedure will be followed. That is the correct method.

APPLICATIONS will be received and processed for potential negro police recruits as they are for all others. There will be the same educational and physical requirements, the same character investigations and the same personal appearance of the applicant before a board composed of Mayor PLEASANTS, Commissioner BOYLE and other police officials. Such screening is all-important.

Equally important is the training. The Memphis Police Department is unusually well equipped to conduct fine training

*The Commercial Appeal*  
Their Value Recognized

*Memphis Press*  
The city's first negro squad car crew for service in the Orange Mound section is official recognition of the value of using negro policemen in certain all-negro areas of Memphis. Six walking negro patrolmen were placed on duty in the Beale Street section less than a month ago and Commissioner BOYLE's assertion that "they are doing an excellent job" confirms the great deal that THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL has heard of the quality of their policing. All such reports make for an opinion that Beale Street isn't what it used to be, and that the change is exceedingly wholesome. It was long overdue.

The two patrolmen assigned to Orange Mound will, we feel sure, give just as good account of themselves. They were trained in the same class with the Beale Street patrolmen and are competent to do the job which has been assigned them. All are getting the best sort of co-operation from law-abiding negro citizens, just as we predicted they would.

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL has never regarded the employment of negro policemen among negroes as anything in nature of an experiment. To the contrary, it believes that they meet very definite and exceptional needs. That this contention is being proved by the service

they are rendering is as satisfying to us as we feel sure it must be to Commissioner BOYLE and to all citizens interested in the community's security.

## Chattanooga Gets Seven Negro Officers

*Atlanta Daily World*  
Uniformed Men  
Atlanta, Ga.  
First On Duty

### In Half Century

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—(SNS)

Seven Negro uniformed policemen appointed several months ago by Commissioner of Fire and Police Roy Hyatt and unanimously agreed to by the Mayor and other Commissioners and who have been in training every since the announcement was made, were sworn into office Wednesday, August 11 at the City Hall at 3 p. m. in the presence of a large group of interested colored and white citizens.

All the men were highly recommended by ministers and other prominent people. All of them are high school graduates and some of them have had college work.

The Chief of Police Ed Ricketts gave them a good send off by patrolling their beats with them when they began work.

The assignment of Negro uniformed police to patrol the streets in Chattanooga on August 11 are the first ones for almost a half century to have this honor.

Fifty years ago there were plenty of Negro policemen, firemen, jailers, and workhouse bosses in Chattanooga.

The Negro police that donned their uniforms and began work on Wednesday were: Arthur Heard, Morris Glenn, Thaddeus Arnold, Wesley Patterson, C. E. Black, Sing Askins and W. B. Baldridge.

## Memphis Takes Up Fight For Negro Police

*Chicago Defender*  
MEMPHIS—The fight for the appointment of qualified Negro men to the city police

force here, one of the causes for the revolt against "Boss" Ed Crump among the Negro wards in the last election, has been taken up by the whole community, with a demand for official action.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal, leading white daily, backed the proposal this week with an editorial and an editorial page cartoon, demanding that the Crump-bossed city administration appoint a corps of Negro policemen to patrol the colored sections of the city at once. Prominent white citizens and civic leaders headed by Reverend Robert G. Lee, pastor of the Bellevue Baptist church have joined the demand for action. Lee pointed out that almost all of the large cities of the south have already taken the step, and that in every instance it has resulted in a reduction of crime and vice for the whole city. *Sat 9-18-48*

### Unions Back Move

The Memphis CIO council which represents more than 30,000 union workers of both races went on record by resolution supporting the plan, as have a number of white and Negro social civic and religious groups. Vice Mayor Boyle, who is also commissioner of police, declined to comment as to what the position of the city administration will be in the absence of Mayor Pleasants, who is on sick leave.

Crump, who prior to the Tennessee election in which he was badly defeated, had refused to give his endorsement to the appointment of Negro policemen, now takes the position that the proposal is "a tremendous question and deserves careful consideration". He declined to say whether he would support the proposal or not.

More than 40 other cities in southern states now have Negro policemen on their local police forces who patrol the Negro communities. The latest to join the trend are High Point, N. C., where 4 Negro policemen have been appointed, and West Palm Beach, Fla. which also appointed four.

## Memphis Gets Negro Police

*Sally Wood*  
MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—A long-time dream of colored Memphians came to fruition Tuesday when nine Negroes were appointed police patrolmen. *Thurs 10-28-48*

In making the appointments, Police Commissioner Joe Boyle said that the Negro patrolmen would limit their arrests to colored citi-

zens and as such would be assigned to Negro areas. Boyle said the patrolmen would go to work as soon as they could secure uniforms. Salaries would start at 170.25 per month, he pointed out.

## Suspend Officer Who Nabbed White Man

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—A Negro police officer was suspended here for *three days* because he arrested a white man. The white was picked up for drunkenness. The NAACP and the Negro Business Men's League is protesting the action and asking a change in regard to present city policy which will not permit any of the seven Negro policemen to arrest a white.



# NEGRO POLICE TO GET TRIAL, BOYLE REVEALS. APPLICATIONS SOUGHT

Care Will Be Given Selection And Training—Raney To

Be In Charge

ONLY IN LIMITED AREA

Commissioner Will Visit Other

Cities Of South Which Have

Similar Programs — Work

Will Start About Oct. 1

By HARRY WOODBURY

City Commissioner Boyle announced last night that a decision has been made to give the suggestion of employing negro policemen for negro districts in Memphis "every consideration with the view of putting some on."

Commissioner Boyle said the Police Department would begin taking applications "immediately." He said forms could be obtained from Inspector W. J. (Bill) Raney, director of the Personnel and Efficiency Division.

## Confers With Mayor

The decision was reached after Commissioner Boyle conferred earlier yesterday with Mayor Pleasants. It follows a suggestion made editorially by The Commercial Appeal.

Negro leaders in the city also have made demands for the employment of negro policemen, following the killing of a negro several weeks ago by two policemen and other incidents.

Commissioner Boyle said that just as soon as a pension plan for city employees is passed on third and final reading Sept. 21, he will make a tour of representative Southern cities now using negro officers.

He said he would study their methods of supervising negro officers.

Boyle Explains Position

The commissioner's statement follows: "After conferring with Mayor Pleasants, we have decided to give the negro police question every consideration with the view of putting some on. In going into this we are not unmindful that Memphis has the largest negro population of any city in the United States of equal size in proportion to the white population. I might include the world."

"I have also had a request from the negroes to establish a negro fire engine company."

"Many cities are having trouble on street cars, hotel reservations and restricted residential areas."

"In Memphis a very determined effort has been made for housing and more housing. The negroes have wading pools, swimming pools, parks, playgrounds, good schools, and I know all these things are on the program for enlargement. A great deal has been done for the negroes' health."

"I regret some of the recent happenings in dealing with negro prisoners."

"Just recently negroes have been persistent in demanding admission to an open air theater."

"I have endeavored to enforce the law without fear or favor. When I took charge the negroes hesitated to attend their big football games on account of cuttings and shootings. Even a gathering of ministers in one of their leading churches was broken up by rowdy negroes. Many feared to travel on Beale Street. John Gaston Hospital looked like a slaughter house on Saturday night. I have tried to correct these evils. We haven't any dives, but to keep it cleaned up requires hard, continuous work every day and night."

## Always On Guard

"Unless people are posted, riding this city night and day, they haven't the slightest idea what is going on. Police station and fire engine houses never close. Open for business every minute of the day and night throughout the year."

"Negro police won't settle the negro problem by any means, when three candidates for the presidency of the United States are advocating FEPC and elimination of the 'Jim Crow Law. In fact, they are all advocating complete social equality, which will not happen in Memphis, only perhaps with a few unthinking radicals who are attempting to practice it now. Not only thinking Memphians, but the people who come in here from out in West Tennessee and in our neighboring states of Arkansas and Mississippi will not have it."

"It is our desire to be fair with all of our people and while the negroes only pay 5 per cent of our taxes, they are entitled to fair treatment."

In an interview following release of the prepared statement, Commissioner Boyle said negro applicants would be given the same application forms provided white applicants.

## To Have Rigid Tests

All applicants for positions with the Police Department are required to have a high school education.

After application forms are filled in, they will be filed with Inspector Raney. If an applicant is chosen for further consideration, he must stand a rigid physical examination.

Then he will be questioned as to character, personality and background by a committee made up of the Mayor, Commissioner Boyle and Police Chief Seabrook or In-

## Policemen (Tennessee)

spector Raney, who will determine if the applicant meets "the general requirements for a good officer."

This has been the practice in the past and will be continued in the future, Commissioner Boyle said.

As in the case of white officers, Commissioner Boyle said, successful applicants will be trained in the Police Academy conducted by Inspector Raney for rookie policemen.

In this connection, Commissioner Boyle said, the Police Academy will resume the training of patrolmen on Oct. 1. He also said that all members of the Police Department, who have not already attended the academy, would be given refresher courses beginning Oct. 1.

In the Police Academy, Inspector Raney gives new officers a balanced course in both physical and mental requisites of a good police officer.

## Lectures and Gym Work

He lectures on discipline, department, report writing, making arrests, patrolling, observation, investigation of crimes, criminal laws most frequently violated and city ordinances.

In the gymnasium, he teaches them the art of self-defense and methods of arresting prisoners without harming them.

The proper use of firearms also is a part of the course, which lasts three weeks.

Commissioner Boyle's announcement follows a study by The Commercial Appeal of experiences in other Southern cities with negro policemen. A series of nine articles covering the experiences of Atlanta, Miami, Louisville, Richmond, Houston, Tulsa, Little Rock, Nashville and Dallas was published.

Without exception, the nine cities reported satisfactory experience with negro officers. Nearly all said their negro officers were supervised by white officers, and that the work of negro police was confined to areas which had predominately negro populations.

Fifty-one cities in 10 Southern states employ negro police.

## Rejects Suggestion

Commissioner Boyle also disclosed that a committee composed of Lewis O. Swingler, editor of the Memphis World; the Rev. Betram Kock, pastor of St. Augustine Catholic Church, and the Rev. S. A. Owen, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, had offered to screen negro police applicants and suggest a list for consideration of the Police Department.

The commissioner rejected the suggestion. He said he did not intend to have any group suggesting prospective applicants. "We have never permitted the submitting of names of men by any pressure group," Commissioner Boyle said. He then explained the present method of selecting police officers, and said that the same procedure would be used in choosing negro candidates.

# Memphis to Hire Negro Policemen

(Special to The Courier)

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Following a long campaign by Negro leaders of this city and aided by the support of The Pittsburgh Courier and two leading daily newspapers, the Commercial-Appeal and the Press-Scimitar, Negro policemen will be employed on the local force for the first time. Some fifteen may be chosen, according to City Commissioner Joe Boyle.

Following a conference with Mayor James J. Pleasants last week, Commissioner Boyle said that approximately 100 Negro men are expected to file applications for the posts and that the jobs will be filled by means of the same methods used in selecting white officers. The new Negro officers are expected to be assigned to patrol the Beale Street area and the Bing-hampton and Orange Mound communities.

## ASK FIRE COMPANY

Commissioner Boyle, in a later statement, disclosed that a request had also been made by Negro leaders for a Negro fire engine company.

Boyle revealed that he had rejected a Negro committee which had offered to screen applicants and suggest a list of candidates for the job. The committee included the Rev. Bertram Kock, the Rev. S. A. Owen and Lewis O. Swingler, editor of the Memphis World. They had been active in the effort to secure Negro officers here.

Successful applicants will be trained in the Police Academy for new officers conducted by Inspector William Raney just as is done for white rookie policemen. The academy will resume training of accepted applicants on Oct. 1. Memphis becomes the fifty-second Southern city with Negro policemen.

## BY-PASSED IN N. O.

Meanwhile, reports from New Orleans, La., suggested that Negro eligibles for the police force there under a recent Civil Service examination, were being by-passed for appointment.

The case of Carlton H. Pecot, 22-year-old Dillard University junior and World War II vet, was cited as typical. Pecot, with an average of 91.26 per cent, placed tenth on the eligible roster and was the highest ranking Negro eligible of six put on the roster on June 11, 1948.

A telephone message last week telling him to call Police Captain John Pinero was complied with and Pecot was instructed to be at police headquarters Saturday morning and that he would be examined Monday of this week. Checking the eligible list, The Courier learned that Pecot was not designated as a Negro as

## BUCK PASSED

Pecot was not instructed to appear for examination Monday and inquiries at the police department failed to develop any information as to when he would receive the examination or what disposition would be made of his case.

Although Negroes have qualified in the last three examinations for city policemen, none has been appointed in New Orleans.

# NEGRO POLICE PRAISED BY DUBIOUS RICHMOND

Acceptance Came Quickly After Worth Was Proved

## CRIME SHOWING DECREASE

(Seventh of a Series)

Richmond, Va., the one-time capital of the Confederacy, has found its experiment with negro policemen so successful that it is planning to increase the number of negro officers from six to eight.

The city has had negro police for two years. Richmond's Police Chief O. D. Grafton summed up his opinion of their service in three words: "Very fine work."

## 51 Cities Use Negroes

Richmond is one of several representative Southern cities surveyed by The Commercial Appeal to determine its experience with negro officers. There are 51 Southern cities which use negro officers, and negro leaders in Memphis are asking that they be used here.

C. A. Paul, reporter of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, provided the information on his city's experience with negro officers.

"The crime rate in negro sections which are patrolled by negro policemen has not dropped sharply, but it has declined," Mr. Paul reports.

"Chief Granton thinks it will continue to decline. Besides, he says, the negro policemen set a good example for other members of their race. This, in the long run, he believes, will pay better dividends than the mere presence of negro policemen in negro districts."

Arrests Are Limited

Mr. Paul said negro patrolmen in Richmond are under express orders not to arrest a white person, as to when he would receive the examination or what disposition would be made of his case.

Although Negroes have qualified in the last three examinations for city policemen, none has been appointed in New Orleans.

about which street corner negroman thinks a white person should be arrested, he calls for a white patrolman to do the job.

Ino ther respects, Richmond's full-fledged policemen are assigned to similar duty among the white members of the force. Unlike some

Mr. Paul recalls there was "considerable grumbling" among white members of the force when negro officers were employed early in 1946. A lieutenant who loudly expressed his opinion of the negro policemen an dof the department higher-up who had hired them was promptly demoted to the grade of patrolman. That stopped the grumbling.

"By the end of the first week,"



other Southern cities, Richmond furnishes its negro police with regulation uniforms. They are also members of the Police Benevolent Association of Richmond. Starting pay for officers in Richmond, white or negro, is \$200 a month. After a year of service, the salary is increased to \$210 upon recommendation of the patrolman's commanding officer, and another \$10 a month increase comes after the third year. The \$230 a month figure is the maximum for a private.

Negroes make up about 42 per cent of Richmond's population (almost the same as in Memphis), and the relative number of negro policemen is small. The Richmond Police Department has an authorized strength of 300 policemen and eight policewomen. At this time, there are 279 policemen and seven policewomen on the force.

**Time For Negro Police**  
For many years, responsible negro leaders of Memphis have urged employment of negro policemen for service to and among the citizens of their race.

THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL believes that the time has come for the city government to deal with this matter realistically and favorably.

It is a belief founded on exhaustive inquiry and an abundance of proof that wherever negro policemen are employed in the South they are not only serving efficiently, but are a distinct asset to their communities.

They would do equally well in Memphis.

Negro policemen are employed in 51 cities in 10 Southern states. They are used in such Southern centers as Nashville, Little Rock, Atlanta, Louisville, Dallas, Houston and Richmond.

All are communities with high percentages of negro population.

In all do the heads of the departments in which negroes are serving have praise for the manner in which negro patrolmen conduct themselves, for the great aid they render in lowering the incidence of crime among negroes and for the beneficial effect they have in improving race relations.

Greater police efficiency is what every community should seek, and there can be no question whatever about it—law enforcement efficiency has increased wherever negro policemen are being used.

The staunchest supporters of such usage are to be found in the departments where there is such employment and where, at first, there was greatest opposition.

Negro policemen have proved their worth elsewhere. They would prove it in Memphis.

It is a traditional contention of the South that progress of the negro can be best speeded through the processes of education and through the granting

and acceptance of trust and responsibility.

The employment of negro policemen is no more or less than the activation of this contention.

There can be no challenge on the point of educational qualifications among negroes. There are many citizens of that race in Memphis who could qualify on the strictest sort of police educational test.

And certainly no difficulty would be encountered in finding a sufficient number of candidates who could meet every test of morality, courage and temperament.

The success of such an undertaking would depend, of course, on the quality of training given negro recruits. It should be the best available and of such duration as to enable the recruit to be turned to duty fully fitted for the work he would have to do.

Atlanta enlisted the assistance of Federal Bureau of Investigation training experts and gained immeasurably thereby. There is no reason why similar assistance could not be given here.

The FBI does not withhold co-operation in such undertakings where sincerity of purpose exists.

Employment of negro policemen in Memphis would achieve much which is highly desirable.

It would give all negro citizens an increased feeling of sharing in community objectives. It would inspire pride among all negroes. It would make every thinking negro a supporter of law and order.

It would erase a great deal of bitterness in some situations.

It is time for Memphis to shake prejudices which tend to retard its growth.

Memphis needs better policing, and this is one good way to get it.

The city government can no longer evade a decision in this matter, but in making it there ought to be complete avoidance of submission to demands of pressure groups.

This is something which can be decided favorably for the negroes on a basis of community need, the requirement for greater police efficiency and of equity.



MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—  
“ANOTHER STRONG ARM OF THE LAW”... Negro uniformed policemen made their advent in Memphis over the weekend, and became the first of their race within three quarters of a century to have this distinction. They are shown here shortly after making their first patrol last Friday afternoon at Beale Auditorium, shown with Police Lt. W. A. Wilson, their superior officer in command of the detail. From left, they are: Wendell Robinson, 23; Claudius L. Phillips, 26; Joseph Pegues, 22; Rufus L. Turner, 26; Lt. Wilson, Daniel Evans, Sr., 25; Jewell W. Jubert, 26; Roscoe R. McWilliams, 25; Earnest C. Withers, Sr., 26; and Marion C. Teague, 26.

Their “Beats or district beginning on its naughty ways, these police-physically and as to attitudes. They at Beale and Mulberry, run east to men were right on hand to maintain were given a rigid examination, and Third; north on Third to the north the peace. Of course, Police Com-several likely prospects fell by the side of Handy Park; east to Hernan missioner Boyle made severalway. The inspector said that the do; south to Gayoso; east to Well- rounds to see how they were doing, new officers would patrol both sides ington; south to Beale; east to and there were a number of white of the street in their district. They Lauderdale; south to Linden; west officers just in case law violators will have authority over all viola- to Third; north to Beale and re- got too tough for the new ‘rookie’ night on Beale Street. They made a number law violation by whites, their su- turn to Mulberry, 11-10-48. They began patrolling the Street of persons in the Beale Street vic-determined expressions to make Two will come on duty at midnight nity were on hand at Beale Auditorium to hear the new officers get Lt. Wilson who is a graduate of three officers are used for relief torium to hear the new officers get Lt. Wilson who is a graduate of three officers are used for relief (Bill) Raney, who trained them, and ington, has been a member of the FBI Police Academy in Wash-services, or work special events such as assignment as commanding officer. It was Inspector Raney who put By Saturday night when Beale the boys through two weeks of hard Street under the magic spell of a training which conditioned them mellow, harvest moon, began to take



# 41 Cities in South Now Have Colored Men as Officers

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Three formidable Negro voting factions pledged themselves Wednesday night to joint action in securing the appointment of Negroes to the Nashville police force.

Meeting at the YMCA, under the sponsorship of the Solid Block, a political group, representatives of the South Nashville Community Center, the Block and the South Nashville Welfare League agreed on a future police of close cooperation in pushing through the police organization reform.

Dr. Ambrose Bennett, unsuccessful candidate for City Council in the last election, told the group that Nashville, "the supposed Athens of the South," has lagged far behind other parts of the region in this matter. He said forty-one Southern cities now have Negro policemen in uniform, and Nashville must follow suit. "In every city where there are Negro policemen, crime has decreased in Negro sections," he said.

## WARNS ON "SELL-OUT"

Earlier, Deerwood McCord, president of the South Nashville Community Club, warned the seventy-five persons in attendance that too many times Nashville's Negroes have been sold out by politicians. "We've got to fight together in this thing," McCord said, "and convince our colored voters we're not trying to sell them out this time."

Dr. E. A. Selby, African Methodist Church Sunday School executive, along with the entire panel of speakers, emphasized the need for preparing Negro police applicants for civil service examinations.

"We must have the very best representatives of our race for these jobs. Men who meet the highest standards in every respect." He advised close cooperation with white factions "who are our friends. We don't want to irritate any group or stir up any trouble. We merely want what is, rightfully ours," Selby said.

## SUPPORT PLEDGED

Dr. George W. Harvey, chief of the Negro Baptist Sunday School Publishing Board and member of the Solid Block executive committee, gave detailed instructions to those in attendance on voting requirements and registration procedure.

Representatives from several miscellaneous Negro veterans and women's groups sat through the session and expressed their intention to follow lines set down at the meeting.

All groups represented indicated they would vote a single ticket in coming elections.

## Fine Record Made By Negro Police Leads To Hiring Of Three More

There will be twelve Negro police officers in Memphis come tomorrow (Saturday) morning.

This information was given Wednesday, when Commissioner Joseph Boyle announced that three additional patrolmen will be put to work starting tomorrow morning.

The new officers will be assigned to the predominantly Negro areas in the Foot & Homes district, Commissioner Boyle said.

The officers are Everige C. Jones, 46, of 1414 Hyde Park, employee of the Police Department for 33 years; Frank Peebles, 24, of 251 Hernando; and Jerry D. Williams, 21 of 1311 Reno, both graduates of the Police Academy. They will patrol their district by squad car.

Everige Jones is one of the best known local Negroes. For years he has been a familiar figure as one of the only Negroes having the distinction of driving police squad cars around the city. Jones has been a long-time employee of the Police Department.

Commissioner Boyle said Jones, who went to work with the department as a boy asked to be made a uniformed officer "so he could help his race." The Commissioner said he will make a good officer because of his long attachment with the force and familiarity with police work. He will be sent through the police school later, the Commissioner said.

"The Negro police have done such a good job, that I have decided to add three more to cover the Negro section which has its center in the Foote Homes section," Commissioner Boyle said, in making the Wednesday announcement.

Negro officers now patrol the Beale Street area and the Florida and Twigg vicinity. The colored officers in the Florida and Twigg area had been assigned to the Orange Mound area in a squad car but, were moved under a program of "switching" them to where they are most needed, the Commissioner said. He said the Department has not abandoned the Orange Mound squad car, which will be restored.



## Five Negroes Appointed To Chattanooga Police

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., June 1—(AP)—City Commissioner Roy Hyatt Tuesday announced the appointment of five men to become the first uniformed Negro policemen to serve here.

The appointments are subject to approval by the City Commission and the passing of physical examinations by the applicants.

The men will be given a special training course before going on active duty, Hyatt said.

## Negroes To Join Nashville Police Force On May 1

NASHVILLE — (SNS) — Mayor Thomas L. Cummings has announced that Negro policemen will join the Nashville police force for the first time on May 1.

The Mayor said Nashville will become the 43rd major Southern city to employ policemen.

He explained that five or six uniformed men will be hired and will be confined to Negro districts.

THANKS TO MAYOR Thomas L. Cummings for the appointment of the city's first Negro policemen were given at Nashville last week. Six Negroes are scheduled to join the department May 1, making Nashville the 43rd major Southern city to employ Negro policemen.

## Another Argument For Negro Policemen

In its May 19th issue the Commercial Appeal carried an editorial stating "Prosecution of two policemen accused of brutally manhandling a Negro prisoner that he lost the sight of an eye cannot be too speedy or too vigorous."

The facts surrounding the incident are too well-known to be repeated here. However, the man was not a "prisoner"—he was an aggrieved citizen seeking fair treatment.

The officers involved have been indicted and are now awaiting trial. The fair-minded citizens of Memphis are now awaiting the outcome. They are waiting to see whether the trial will result in another fiasco and horrible miscarriage of justice such as resulted when two other officers were tried for misusing two Negro girls, and were released.

They were exonerated by a jury of twelve white men who, despite a "vigorous" and "speedy" prosecution by Attorney General William Gerber, could not bring themselves to admit that any Negro "has any rights that a white man is bound to respect."

For quite some time there has been a growing realization among local Negroes that they should have some representation among the law enforcement agencies of this city. This realization has been constantly pointed up by the fact that in cities all around Memphis Negroes have been and are being placed on the police force.

To many Negroes the presence of Negro officers on local forces is a symbol of at least a modicum of fair-play and justice at the hands of law enforcement agencies.

Such incidents as the partial blinding of a non-resisting and non-violent Negro, within the confines of the police station, at the hands of two white policemen, only serve to strengthen the conviction that Negroes will not receive fair-play and justice when they are left solely in the hands of white officers.

The blinding incident, so far as many local Negroes are concerned, is just another argument in favor of the selection of Negroes to serve on the Memphis police force.

The arguments in favor of such officers, in the opinion of many, greatly outweigh such realizations as the fact that a Negro officer can be and may be as brutal as a white officer—that any officer, regardless of race, is sworn to enforce the law without favor or bias—and that any Negro will be wrong to expect a Negro officer to be "easy" on him just because he is a Negro.

Many local Negroes believe Memphis needs Negro officers—men who might not be so prone to knock out another Negro's eye.

## Nashville Mayor, Police Commissioner Proud Of Negro Police On Force

Reports direct from the Mayor of Nashville and the Fire and Police Commissioner of the capitol city are to the effects that the seven Negro police officers appointed just a few months ago have already made an exceptionally fine record as law enforcing agents.

Memphis World Editor L. O. Swinger made a special visit in Nashville last Thursday morning to personally interview these two top officials of the city regarding Negro officers. Mayor Thomas L. Cummings issued the following statement:

"Any city with a substantial Negro population cannot really afford to be without Negro policemen on its force."

One of the major accomplishments of Mayor Cummings shortly after his return to office as Mayor of Nashville was the selection and subsequent appointment of Negroes to the force. Mr. Cummings took delight in the fact that he, himself, took the lead in appointing race officers.

"We had need of them and found it good police business to add at least a detail to the force," he stated.

A detail of policemen in Nashville represents seven men.

The interview was arranged with Mayor Cummings and Commissioner Mays by Attorney Horne, manager of Andrew Jackson's Courts; and W. D. Hawkins of the admin-

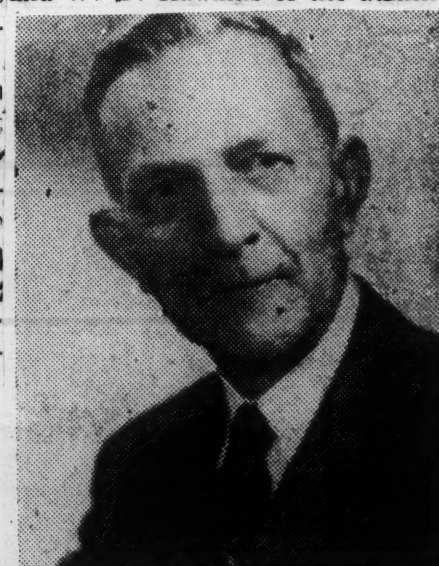
istrative staff at Fisk University. Both men have been working closely with the present administration in the promotion of many civic activities of mutual interest to both races.

Mayor Cummings and Commissioner Mays expressed best wishes in the effort of a substantial group of citizens of both races in Memphis to get Negroes on the force. Commissioner Mays asserted:

"We have had need for some time for Negro policemen. In putting on a unit we have been able to fill that need. This unit was given a course of instruction and was very interested in equipping themselves for the work. They have been very efficient in carrying out police assignments. There has been no trouble and friction as predicted by some. I am very well satisfied with the calibre of men that we have selected for the work they are doing."

Commissioner Mays pointed out that for many years Nashville has had Negro firemen. Presently there are twelve Negro firemen with the department, majority of whom having served for an extended period. Nashville Negro police officers, while assigned to the Fourth and Charlotte (formerly Cedar) vicinity are not prevented from arresting any law offender because of his color. A white man who violates the law on one of the beats policed by Negro officers, is subject to arrest.

During the past four weeks, the Memphis World has carried on a campaign for police officers in Memphis. This campaign has been intensified in the wake of police brutality. One Negro man, Eli Blaine, was blinded in his right eye by a vicious attack by two local police officers at the local police station. Two weeks later a Negro woman was attacked so viciously in the squad car of two policemen that it was necessary for her to be confined to John Gaston Hospital for several days. Her left eye was still closed ten days later when she appeared in City Court only to be fined \$78.00 on three charges.



MAYOR CUMMINGS



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## AME Ministers' Council In Strong Endorsements For Negro Police Here

While certain so-called race leaders have given their approval to things that appertain even in the face of such iniquitous practices, basement meetings notwithstanding, there is another side:

Memphis Tennessee in the past few years has been repeatedly shocked by the unbridled brutality of the police upon the colored citizenry of the city.

This has become a constant shame throughout Christian Democratic America.

Our young girls have been raped; our young expectant mothers brutally assaulted; our women beaten down like wild dogs; Mr. Eli Blaine's eye was beaten out for reporting an offense against a police officer.

Because of such malignant miscarriage of justice and common decency by the police officers in regards to Negroes: We the members of the A. M. E. Ministers Council unanimously condemn the acts of police brutality, as anti-

christian, anti-democratic, anti-humanitarian, and against the best interest of the community--and not conducive for the building of a community of Goodwill.

We the said ministers seeing the need and sensing the desire of our people recommend to the administration, the following:

1. That all the citizens be given the protection that is due them regardless of color or nationality.
2. That a more thorough going instruction be given the policemen in training.
3. That a higher type officer be secured exemplifying more christian qualities.
4. That Negro Policemen be placed in service immediately.

Members of the Ministers Council of the AME Church:

Rev. I. T. Jefferson, Rev. A. E. Andrews, Rev. A. L. Gilmore, Rev. D. V. Kyle, Rev. Louis William, Rev. W. Pruitt, Rev. H. P. Reynolds, Rev. L. E. Mosby, Rev. J. F. Haywood, Rev. F. B. Bradley, Rev. J. H. Davis, Rev. A. J. Johnson, Rev. I. A. Walker, Rev. F. D. Coleman, Sr., Rev. L. Threats, Rev. Samuel Huston, Rev. Creed Ashurst, Rev. E. Coleman, Jr., Rev. J. W. Hall, Rev. W. M. Young, Rev. J. B. Dove, Rev. A. D. Brown, Rev. H. P. Jones, Rev. Otis Hooks, Rev. J. J. Cooperwood, Rev. J. A. Wright, Rev. A. L. Alexander, Rev. E. D. Chalmers, Rev. J. D. Dandrige, Rev. John Trent, Rev. W. L. Powell, Rev. S. W. G. Wilson.

## Negro Officers' Right to Arrest Whites Is Sought

Chattanooga, Sept. 16 (P)—Two Negro organizations here have requested that Negro policemen be allowed to arrest white as well as Negro offenders. Police Commissioner Roy Hyatt says he will decide Tuesday.

The request by the Negro delegations came after a Negro policeman had been suspended pending an investigation of the charge that he arrested a white man for alleged drunkenness. The Negro policeman told the City Commission the white man taunted him and challenged him to make the arrest.

## Not A Racial Matter

Some of our friends, making up what is known as the Fraternal Congress of Memphis, are opposing the employment of negro policemen in Memphis—a matter on which the city government is already committed.

The opposition is based purely on racial grounds and therefore is completely without merit. The matter of race is not involved. Employment of negro policemen for service among and to negro citizens is something to be considered only in the light of police efficiency improvement and of elemental justice to negro citizens.

AS THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL has pointed out on several occasions, and as the record clearly proves, negro policemen are serving efficiently and ably in 51 cities as Southern as Memphis had ever been or ever can be. They can and will serve just as capably here.



## Seven Policemen, The First in the History of Nashville, Now On Duty



History, when it is written of our day and generation, will record the names of seven young men who met the requirements, passed the examination, were commissioned as City Policemen here in Nashville, thus setting a record and establishing a precedent. They were induct-

ed into office with befitting ceremonies and a beautifully-arranged affair, some weeks ago. All are well and favorably known in this city.

The names of those shown on the picture reading from left to right are Herbert L. Paskett, Ernest S. Ford, J. T. Booker, Otto Willis, Gentry Bledsoe, Wm. L. Latham, and John W. Smith. They have all been assigned their respective shifts in the No. Nashville territory, where are located many business institutions, a great and popular residential section with such schools as Pearl High, Pearl Elementary, Fisk University, Meharry Medical College, A. and I. State College. They are attracting splendid attention as they cruise around over their districts, morning, noon, afternoon and night.

Official Nashville, and the city. Memphis is long overdue for zenry at large, both Negroes and whites, are proud of this detail of Negro officers recently appointed by Mayor Cummings who regarded their appointment "good police business." From left to right, they are:—Herbert L. Paskett, Ernest S. Ford, J. T. Booker, Otto Willis, Gentry Bledsoe, William Latham, and John W. Smith.

There is also a woman officer, Policewoman Minnie Alexander, attached to the Juvenile Court.

Nashville is one of the major Tennessee cities with race police officers. The other two are Knoxville which has had Negroes on its police force for many years; and Chattanooga. Nashville also has twelve Negro firemen.

Memphis has never had uniformed policemen, so far as present record, it is in the Beale Street vicinity where there is regular misuse and abuse of police power.

This publication has been joined by the AME Ministers Alliance, the Memphis Negro Junior Chamber of Commerce, and American Veterans Committee in endorsing appointment of Negro policemen for this

city. Memphis is long overdue for them.—(Courtesy, Nashville Globe) Ford shows. Its police brutality record, especially as it relates to the Negro, has been the worst in the state. Recent incidents bear witness to this statement. Memphis' Negro population in excess of 135,000 is more than forty per cent of the total of the metropolitan area. There are several communities almost wholly populated by Negroes, notably Orange Mound, Douglas, Klondyke, and New Chicago. How-

## As To Negro Policemen

Many negro citizens of Memphis have long believed that far better law enforcement and law observance conditions would result if Negro policemen were on duty in negro sections.

As far as we know, city government has avoided the issue so far, but it is one that will have to be faced in due time.

Inasmuch as the matter is one of moment to Memphians, THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL has conducted a survey of Southern cities which do have negroes on their police forces. The findings of this survey have been incorporated into a series of stories. The first of this series appeared yesterday and the second one will be found elsewhere in this edition.

It is to be hoped that the people of Memphis, negro and white, will read these recapitulations of the actual experience of the 51 cities in the South that have negro police officers, study them earnestly, and so be prepared to form an opinion based on information.

## NEGRO POLICEMEN?

Memphis has decided to follow the lead of other Southern cities, such as Savannah, by employing some Negro policemen for assignment in Negro districts. This seems to be a developing trend in the South and eventually Montgomery will have to adopt or reject the plan.

Of Memphis' decision to commission some Negro policemen, The Memphis Commercial Appeal observes:

The city government's announcement that Negro policemen will be employed in Memphis for service among Negro citizens marks a far, forward step in the progress of this city.

It can and should be a means for eliminating many irritations and the medium through which an infinitely happier city can be built.

Much will depend upon the quality of co-operation given by all Memphians, and especially those citizens who have sought to share in a tremendously important civic responsibility.

Montgomery, Ala. has nothing to do with programs advocated by radical politicians in the Communist carpetbag variety. It has nothing to do with politics.

It is purely and simply a matter of equity and one involving improvement of police efficiency.

The Commercial Appeal applauds the city's decision to make haste slowly by first making a study of the way in which Negro officers are used. It expresses the hope that "the announcement will inspire such tremendous pride among the Negro citizens that it will stir in them new and greater civic consciousness and cooperation—in policing and in all things related to civic betterment."

A city's decision to undertake such an experiment is a difficult one, not less because of the present inflamed political climate. It is easy to conjure up possibilities of Negro policing—even where only Negroes are involved—that give pause to city governing bodies.

The happy results to be accomplished are easy to foresee, but the difficulties are not. The essential difficulty would, of course, be segregation in such police activity. Unless a system could be worked out where encounters between negro policemen and white lawbreakers were impossible, the game would not be worth the candle.



# Negro Policemen For Memphis?

## 51 Cities In South Have Them

System 'Very Successful' In Miami, Says Chief Of Police, Pointing To Record Of Big Reduction In Major Crimes And Juvenile Delinquency

(First of a series)

Should Memphis have negro police officers to supplement the present force of white officers, and to patrol districts which are predominantly negro?

This question has been raised by various organized groups of the city's negro citizens, who feel that a much better job of policing could be done in the negro sections by negro policemen.

So far the city government has sidestepped the issue. The Commercial Appeal has conducted a survey of Southern cities which have negroes on their police forces, and coming over Chief Headley told will review their experiences in Mr. Voltz's series of articles.

### 51 Cities Have Them

An investigation shows that 51 Southern cities in 10 states are now using negro police officers. These include 245 uniformed negro policemen, 23 negro plainclothes officers, and eight negro station and detention quarters policewomen.

The states include Tennessee (Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville), Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Kentucky, and Louisiana. Southern states which do not have cities with negro police are Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana.

Miami has the largest number of negro police of any of the 51 Southern cities. It has 20 uniformed negro officers.

What has been Miami's experience with negro police?

The answers were supplied The Commercial Appeal by Luther Voltz of the Editorial Department of the Miami Herald.

### System Working Well

Mr. Voltz relates that Miami's negro police detachment was organized as a wartime emergency. It started functioning Sept. 1, 1944. Since that time, the reporter relates:

"Crimes of violence have been cut in half in Miami's thickly populated negro sections.

"Juvenile delinquency has been reduced 60 per cent. . . ."

Police Chief Walter E. Headley of Miami told Mr. Voltz: "The experiment in using negro police officers has been very successful here. The figures on crime and juvenile delinquency reduction prove it. The accomplishments couldn't have been possible otherwise."

Opposition has cropped up from time to time, Mr. Voltz recalls. Most of it has been traced to the numbers operators and others in the gambling fraternity who have found the negro officers difficult to deal with.

"Even the diehards are finally

savings to taxpayers?

Mr. Voltz says, "Yes." He estimates the taxpayers save about \$50,000 a year on the treatment of negroes injured in criminal activities. The bill for treating victims of cuttings, shootings and other crimes has been reduced that much, he reports.

(Tomorrow: Louisville's experiences with negro police).

### 'Colored Only' Cop

**Arrested White Drunk; Suspended**

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (ANP)

A Negro police officer was given a fifteen-day suspension because he arrested a white man for drunkenness last week. The local branch NAACP and the Negro Business Men's League asked for a change in this city's policy.

The city rules that a Negro officer may not arrest a white man. The city has seven colored policemen.

**BOYLE TO MAKE SURVEY ON HIRING NEGRO POLICE**

Commissioner To Leave For Visit To Southern Cities

City Commissioner Boyle will leave Memphis tonight to begin his survey of how Southern cities handle negro police, he said yesterday. The commissioner first announced he would make the tour when he disclosed Memphis will employ negro police on a trial basis.

Commissioner Boyle said he will go to Atlanta and Birmingham, then will return to Memphis. After visiting those cities, the commissioner will go to Houston.

Plans to hire negro police here in areas predominantly negro were announced after it was suggested editorially by The Commercial Appeal. A number of applications already have been received by Inspector W. J. (Bill) Raney, director of personnel, who will train negroes accepted for appointment.

In disclosing his plans to begin his tour, Commissioner Boyle said another organization has written him expressing its opposition to the plan. A letter from the Junior Order of the United American Mechanics Union, Council No. 126, said the group adopted a resolution opposing employment of negro police. The letter was signed by W. F. Thompson, financial and recording secretary.

**OPPOSES NEGRO POLICE**

To The Commercial Appeal:

In view of your current stand on

the negro police proposal, I wonder if you have given careful consideration to all phases of the problem. You have offered several Southern cities as examples for Memphis to follow. Why should we, with our efficient city administration and unexcelled civic pride, look to other cities for an example? I should think rather that Memphis should look to Memphis for an example. The many national civic honors we have won should attest to this.

In Chattanooga recently a negro policeman was discharged for a direct violation of orders (he arrested a white man). In Kansas City two negro policemen were called to quell a minor disturbance in a negro apartment. Before it was over five were dead and two wounded. White officers probably could have handled the situation without even making an arrest. A negro will not have the respect for a negro officer that he does for a white officer.

The idea has been advanced that negro officers would be able to get more information from members of their own race (informers). I have never heard of any police department being without an adequate supply of informers. The efficiency of our police department is on a par with any in the Nation.

The trend in our national Government for the past 15 years has been to bow to the demands of minority and pressure groups, regardless of the welfare or wishes of the majority (for a few bloc votes). We do not want to see our local government come under the influences of these sinister forces.

It would be definitely unwise at this time to place negro policemen on the Memphis police force. As President Truman is trying to get his force bills passed into law, even using his sacred executive powers to do away with segregation in the armed forces against the advice of the top military advisers of the Nation. Thereby, bowing to the demands of minority and pressure groups. Therefore let us have a Government, of the people, by the people, and for the people, and not for a few disgruntled people who are trying to get an advantage at the expense of the majority.

If at some future date, the city administration after careful study without pressure, decides that it is advisable to put negro policemen on the police force, let them do so. The ones that are in charge of our police department know more about how to combat crime than some minority group that only has an ax to grind.

TROY E. NUNIS.

2688 Fizer.

**Negro Police Officers Added to Memphis Force**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (AP) — Nine Memphis Negroes yesterday were appointed police policemen by Commissioner Joe Boyle.

Boyle said they would be for

sons. They will be assigned usually to Negro areas.

He said they would go to work as soon as they could get uniforms. Their monthly salaries start at \$170.25.

### They Are Policemen

Six negro policemen will go on duty in all negro areas of Memphis this week. Three others will be used for reserve purposes. They are ready to undertake that great responsibility. A fair-minded Memphis will give them fullest opportunity to prove a value which THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL believes to be very great.

They have had good training in the things a recruit policeman needs to know — in crime and in the common lesser offenses; in the rules of evidence; in the procedures of arrest and in deportment on and off duty.

They have had drilled into them the necessity for and the value of a courteous approach in their dealings with citizens. They have been taught how to be helpful to those seeking information and counsel.

They have been taught how to take care of themselves. They have been told that if the hard choice has to be made between their life and that of a criminal there can be but one decision. They have been prepared for that emergency.

Those who are going to duty are the survivors of more than 150 applicants. They are the nine of an original class of 13 admitted to the police academy. Three failed in their examinations—one resigned.

The nine are young and physically fit. Their examination grades were far better than required for passing. In some instances, marks were exceptional. Seven have had military service in wartime. All know and admit the importance of discipline.

They recognize that, for modern Memphis, they are the principals in an entirely new undertaking. They have expressed a genuine desire to be of service to their people, to the cause of law and order, and to all of Memphis. They have fully accepted the limitation placed on their power to arrest—that it will be confined to negroes.

If they are given the co-operation they have a right to expect from negro citizens they can be an invaluable asset to Memphis, and especially to the police department.

Because it believes that employment of negro policemen for duty in negro areas will be beneficial to a progressive Memphis and will increase general police efficiency, THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL has

of that office. They have the confidence of the city government they will represent. We believe that in due time they will not only have earned the respect but the admiration of the community.

had deep interest in this project from the moment of its inception. It will continue to have such an interest. The nine who will go on duty will be policemen in all the word implies in a democracy. They will have the authority



AFTER COMPLETING A 13-WEEK training course, 13 Negroes were inducted into Houston's police force last week. They were awarded certificates at a banquet at Texas State University. *Sum. 8-29-48*

## Three More Negroes Pass Police Exam

*(33) The Commercial Appeal*  
DALLAS — Three passed the examination given for Negro policemen and have been certified, it was revealed on Monday, December 29, by E. M. Powell, director of City Civil Service. Fifty men took the examination which was given December 3 at Booker T. Washington High school. This was the fourth examination in a little over a year in the police department's plan to place fourteen Negroes on the police force. *Sum. 8-29-48*

The three who passed out of the fifty who took this most recent examination December 3 have been certified by the Civil Service Commission to the City Police Department. According to the City Service officials this means they have passed both the literary examination and the physical test. The instructors who usually conduct the six week training period are now in the midst of a class that will not be over until the last week in January. For that reason the earliest probable date the training class will start for Negro Policemen will be the first week of February. *Sum. 8-29-48*

The three who passed the examination and were certified are: Charles Russell Thompson 2518 N. Washington; Jesse R. Dawson 4327 Marshall; and Murphy Boyd 5113 Keating.

Jesse R. Dawson is the husband of Mrs. Mary Dawson who has a daughter, Janice Marie, five months old. He is a native of Wortham, Texas, having completed his high school education there also. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cal Dawson, 4416 Wahoo Street. He moved to Dallas in the year of 1940 and is employed at the Towser Lumber Company. He served in the United States Army for a period of three years which included service in the European Theater. He is a member of the Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church. Rev. C. C. Choice, pastor.

Charles Russell Thompson, 2518 N. Washington Ave., is a native of Saratoga Springs New York, having resided in Dallas for a period of four months. He is employed at

the Adolphus Hotel as a waiter. He served in the service for a period of 3 1-2 years with some time being spent in the Pacific Theater. He is the husband of Mrs. Evelyn Thompson, and received his high school education in New York City N. Y. He attended St. John University at Minnesota. He attends St. Peters Catholic church, Father Joseph Talley, priest. *Sum. 8-29-48*

Murphy Boyd Daniels, the third man, who passed the examination, could not be contacted before press time. The following issue will give more in details and pictures of the three who passed the examination. *Sum. 8-29-48*

## Lack Of Qualified Applicants Limits Negro Police In Dallas

(Third of a series)

The Dallas Police Department began employment of negro policemen 18 months ago, but unlike some of the cities which have established negro police detachments is finding it difficult to find qualified applicants. This problem may diminish with time.

As in the cases of many other Southern cities employing negro police (and there are 51 in 10 states), Dallas confines activities of its negro officers to negro areas. *Sum. 8-29-48*

Dallas now has four negro policemen. Carl F. Hansson, Dallas chief of police, told Allen Quinn of the Dallas News, his department "would like to have more if qualified applicants could be found."

"Their use in the last 18 months in a large Dallas negro area (the Hall-Thomas area) has proved definitely satisfactory," the police chief advised the reporter.

### Planned To Hire 14

The Commercial Appeal is publishing a series of articles discussing the experiences of other Southern cities with negro police, since various negro organizations in Memphis have requested city officials to consider their employment here. *Sum. 8-29-48*

Dallas originally planned to employ 14 negro officers to serve in several negro areas.

Negro applicants for police service must meet the same standards in Dallas that have been set up by that city's Civil Service board for white officers.

Initial qualifications are that the applicant must have a high school education or its equivalent; must be between 23 and 33 years old, and must stand at least five feet,

nine inches tall and weigh at least 150 pounds.

Then the applicant must pass a Civil Service examination and a stiff physical examination before he may be certified by the Civil Service board as eligible for employment. After that, the applicant also must stand the test of a searching investigation of his personal background and a personality screening by the police chief.

Of the 90 negro applicants who took the original Civil Service examination in Dallas 18 months ago, only three were certified, one was later disqualified after a check into his personal background. Of the two who were employed, one was later discharged for misconduct. *Sum. 8-29-48*

### Won't Lower Standards

A second examination of negro police applicants was given last January. From 50 applicants, five were certified as eligible and three were employed.

Mr. Quinn reports that Chief Hansson has rejected requests of Dallas negro leaders that some of

the Civil Service requirements—particularly those relating to physical standards—be waived for negro applicants. *Sum. 8-29-48*

The four negro officers now serving in Dallas' Hall-Thomas area are commanded by a white superior officer, and they have headquarters at a negro public housing development.

"They serve only in the negro area and are under instructions to deal only with members of their own race except in cases of emergency," Mr. Quinn said.

Chief Hansson, in discussing his negro officers, said: "They have reduced crime in the Hall-Thomas area, particularly aggravated assault and murder by arrests of drunks and troublemakers. They have run out the hoodlums who formerly were responsible for much rowdiness. They have been effective in obtaining information about negro criminals, and negro crime for white officers of the police Criminal Investigation Division. *Sum. 8-29-48*

## Fine Negro Policeman For Carrying Pistol

HOUSTON, — (ANP) — The Houston Police association had to come to the rescue of a local Negro patrolman in uniform last week when he was arrested by a deputy sheriff in Madisonville for carrying a gun. *Sum. 8-29-48*

Officer H. C. Mackey on visit to the town of Madisonville and dressed in his uniform was arrested by a local deputy and then fined by County Judge W. N. Coleman for carrying a gun.

This ruling was made although Texas law declares that Houston policemen are state officers and should carry their guns at all times. *Sum. 8-29-48*

Hearing of the incident, B. Porter, vice president of the police association, sent out the group's attorney in Mackey's behalf. This action recovered his \$10 for the officer which was accepted as down payment on a \$100 fine.

## Texas Negro Police Meet In Austin

AUSTIN, Tex. — (ANP) — More than 90 members attended the 12th annual meeting of the Texas Negro Police Officers' association held in Austin last week. The sessions were held at the Dorn Miller auditorium.

At the banquet the graduates of the course were addressed by Mayor Protem E. D. Bailey; Inspector Morrison; Vernon L. Engburg, University of Houston liaison representative and aide to Inspector Morrison; Captain R. E. Floyd, Director of Civil Service; Sergeant Clayton Phillips; and R. P. Player, Director of Public Relations, Texas State University for Negroes.

## Houston Police Trainees Cited

HOUSTON — Thirteen Negro applicants for positions with the Houston Police department completed a 13-week course and were awarded certificates at a banquet Monday in the Texas State University cafeteria. The program of training in Public Administration was sponsored and jointly by the University of Houston, the Texas State University for Negroes, and the Police Department of Houston. Inspector L. D. Morrison of the Crime Prevention Bureau was Director of Training.

## Texas Peace Officers' Conference In Austin

AUSTIN, Texas — The Texas Peace Officers' Association held its annual meeting here this week with more and more Texas officers including city police officers, deputy sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and deputy sheriffs. The local chapter of the association which planned the day confab, was able to obtain 13 police trainees, some outstanding personalities in the realm of law enforcement, including FBI officials, head of the state public safety commission and ranking members of the Austin police department as principal speakers. The training program of the Texas State University cafeteria last year when only seven Houston policemen presented the delegation from



# "DON'T ARREST WHITE FOLK" ORDER CAUSES RESIGNATION OF HOUSTON NEGRO POLICEMAN

## Officer Sends Billy to Police Chief

HOUSTON, Texas — Smarting under instructions from his white superior who ordered him not to arrest white and Mexican law violators, Vernell E. Fuller, one of the 13 new policemen named to the Houston police force last April, resigned last week, writing a letter to the mayor, chief of police, and the NAACP, denouncing the edict and declaring it would be below his dignity and self respect to accept any such arbitrary curtailment of his authority.

Vernell, since sending in his resignation, said that during his three months training course a well-known Negro politician gave him the first intimation of what he would be required to do, when during the course of an address to the rookie policemen he told them, and in the presence of the mayor and the assistant chief-of-police:

"If you Negro officers arrest all of the Negro violators you will not have time to arrest white people."

Trouble broke when Vernell was reprimanded by his superior for arresting a white speeder in the Dowling street area. Vernell alleges that working class whites consort with Negro women in the Loyon and Hill street area and that Negro peace officers are expected to disregard this unlawful relationship.

In his letter to the Chief-of-Police and the mayor, Vernell wrote: B. W. Payne  
Chief-of-Police

Dear Sir:

After careful consideration I have concluded that the policy of the Houston police department concerning Negro officers having only limited authority is inconsistent with my own convictions. As a result of this inconsistency, and to avoid possible conflict, I, Vernell E. Fuller, do hereby tender my resignation effective this day, September 3, 1948.

Very truly yours,  
Vernell E. Fuller

Mayor Oscar Holcombe,  
C-o City of Houston  
Houston, Texas  
Sir:

Recently Sgt. Serres stated in

well. We cannot adequately enforce the law on one hand and grant immunity on the other.

On August 4, 1948, Sgt. Serres of the Houston Police Dept. called my partner, W. E. Simmons and I into his office and criticized us for having arrested a white man speeding down Dowling street at 45 miles per hour. We arrested the white man and released him after he informed us that he was a police officer. Concerning this, Sgt. Serres stated, "We don't want you to arrest white people or Mexicans, regardless of what they are doing, just leave them alone."

This policy means that white people can walk around on your beat and deliberately violate the laws without being apprehended unless a white officer is on the scene. It means that the colored population in time will become indignant of half authorized colored policemen. It means that there are more people who are immune to arrest than the constitution stipulates. And last it means that I cannot pursue my duties as a law enforcement officer knowing that certain limitations are placed upon me.

I was sworn to uphold and enforce the law without the qualification or condition that has been added.

I find that this policy is not in keeping with my training or oath, and should I resign from the Houston Police Dept., it will be on account of the unfairness of this policy.

Very truly yours,  
Vernell E. Fuller

## Negro Sleuths Praised

DALLAS, TEX. — Negro special sleuths here were praised last week by Sheriff Steve Guthrie for their ability to "get their man." The record the colored deputies are making here speaks well for the potential employment of Negro officers in other southern cities where antiquated tradition has held sway against using them.

Sheriff Guthrie said the deputies live in last Wednesday that six West Dallas and four Negro special deputies live in other sections are co-operating fully of the county. with his department in investigating criminal cases involving Negroes. He said that two of city as all other spe-

cial deputies -- as in information sources.

Guthrie said that one of the West Dallas deputies was responsible for charges being filed in a murder case several months ago. He pointed out that white deputies could not obtain the information needed, but the Negro deputy was able to get the facts.

The sheriff said that a man by the name of Al Liggins was found beaten to death several months ago.



# Portsmouth To Begin Use Of Colored Policemen August 1

PORTSMOUTH — This city will fall in line with scores of other progressive cities of the South when two colored men are included among eight patrolmen who will begin active duty August 1, as members of the Portsmouth Police Department.

Wayman T. Lewis, of Carver Homes, and Arcelleous Elliott, of 22 Manly street, who have long held high places on the civil service eligibility lists, are slated to receive appointments to the police department, along with six young white men.

Chief of Police O. B. Dunn told the Guide this week that, according to present plans, the new officers will be instructed to report for active duty on Aug. 1. Chief Dunn stated that he did not know at the present time, what assignments the new men would get.

The appointments of police officers are officially made by the city manager. This week special officers of the Portsmouth Police Department were "investigating" the men whose names appear on the civil service list, a routine practice before appointments are made.

## PROBABLE "BESTS"

The Guide learned from informed sources that the new colored patrolmen would probably be given one of the other of the following "beats": (1) Night patrol (foot duty) of the large colored areas around Truxton and Douglas Park, with special emphasis on the business districts of those sections. (2) Night patrol of the colored areas of busy downtown Portsmouth, embracing Chestnut street, County street, Columbia street, South street, Effingham street and environs, where numerous law offenses are reported. Disorderly conduct has been rife in this area for many years and citizens of both races have lodged repeated complaints.

The Portsmouth City Council recently appropriated the necessary funds with which to employ the eight additional policemen, on request of Chief Dunn, who pointed out that his department did not have the necessary personnel to furnish adequate

police protection for residents of the city.

## AWAIT APPOINTMENT

Lewis and Elliott received official notices Wednesday to report for active duty August 1. The new officers are due to be formally appointed to the force by City Manager W. Guy Ancell this week.

City Manager Ancell told the Guide this week that he would make the appointments as soon as routine investigations are completed.

Lewis has been on the civil service list since early in 1946. Failing to be appointed that year, he again passed the examinations, along with Elliott, in 1947 and for most of last year the names of the two men were top of the eligibility list.

## SKIPS NAME

Last December Lewis and Elliott were in the group who passed another civil service test, Lewis winning third place on the list and Elliott earning eighth place. From this group, City Manager Owens, who resigned Jan. 1, appointed four officers. In doing so, he skipped over the name of Lewis.

Portsmouth civic organizations have long requested the appointment of colored policemen here. The Central Civic Forum, headed by Dr. O. C. Jones, more recently made strong requests for the appointment of colored police officers. Colored citizens feel that race policemen will do a good job and be a notable asset to the city.

## CHIEF WILL HELP

Chief Dunn stated that he will do everything possible to assist the men in their new work.

Lewis is a product of St. Paul's Polytechnic Institute and was employed in the local Navy Yard during the war years. He is married.

Elliott served in the Merchant Marine during World War II and is now employed as an agent of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co. He is also married. Both men informed the Guide this week that they were ready to begin their duties with the Portsmouth Police Department.

Meanwhile, it was revealed Thursday that there were only six men available for appointments—three of the white men having decided against going into police work. Chief Dunn stated

## Policemen (Virginia)

that another civil service examination would be held in the near future. Those desiring to take the test must file applications with the local civil service board.

# Four Virginia Cities Hire 20 Colored Police

RICHMOND, Va. — (ANP) — Four Virginia cities are employing 20 Negro policemen and find their services satisfactory. It was revealed in a recent check on all large Virginia cities. The check was by letter, but only five cities replied to the questions asked.

Richmond with six Negro police officers on June 28, appointed four more on May 1, 1946. Two more were added later. Colonel O. D. Garton, chief of police, thinks these men have done "very well."

Incidentally, Richmond plans to appoint two more Negro police. Negro police can't operate in white sections or arrest whites in Negro or white sections. Col Garton spells Negro with a small "n".

## OTHER CITIES

Newport News employs six Negro policemen. The first was appointed on May 17, 1946. J. M. Peach, chief of police, says "their services have been very favorable." They operated only in Negro sections of the city.

Norfolk was employing seven Negro policemen on July 2. C. H. Dalby, public safety director, who spells Negro with a small "n", says "these men are assigned to an area in which the Negro population predominates, but they do as occasions arise, make arrests of white as well as Negro citizens."

He also said: "There are no immediate plans for the appointment of additional Negro police officers. The work of the latter has been satisfactory and compares with that of white officers of the same educational advantages, training, and experience."

## WHITE ONLY

R. J. Roundtree Jr., assistant city manager in Staunton, Va., says the police department of that city "feels that our problems here can be handled by white personnel much more 'efficient' than by Negro police."

Roundtree also said: "We do not favor Negro police for a city our size."

There is one Negro policeman in Portsmouth, Va. One or two more will sooner or later be appointed. Negroes agitated several years be-

fore action by the city. The Associated Negro Press contacted several cities in this police check, but they did not respond. These other cities were Petersburg, Roanoke, Lynchburg, Charlottesville, Covington, Clifton Forge, and Martinsville.

# More Negro Cops For Portsmouth

PORTSMOUTH, Va. — (ANP) — The appointment of more Negro police to the police department seemed assured in the near future last week for this Southern city when City Manager W. Guy Ancell announced that he intended to increase the number of police for the city.

Eight additional police are needed, Ancell said, and he announced that he intended to add more Negroes to the force.

## First Negro To Police Force Since Civil War

PORTSMOUTH, Va. — Occasional Elliott was recently appointed to Portsmouth police force, the first Negro to hold such a position since the Civil War. He was appointed after a long period of agitation and appeals by Negro citizens for the appointment of Negro police in this city.

## Portsmouth's First Colored Officer



Patrolman Arcelleus Elliott, of the Portsmouth Police Department, has been assigned a beat in the Truxton-Douglass Park area of the city for the present. He was appointed last week. Officer Elliott becomes the first colored policeman in Portsmouth since the reconstruction era. He began active duty Sunday.



# U. S. Jurist Signs Order Against Firemen's Bias

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (NNPA)— Judge Albert V. Bryan of the United States District Court for the eastern district of Virginia last Tuesday signed a temporary injunction forbidding the practice of race discrimination against colored locomotive firemen in the assignment of helpers on Diesel locomotives when they are substituted on the Seaboard Air Line Railroad for steam locomotives on any regular assigned run held by a non-promotable fireman.

The temporary injunction was issued in the case of David H. Hinton, of Raleigh, North Carolina, a Seaboard Air Line locomotive fireman, who was displaced by a white fireman on September 30, 1946, when Diesel locomotives were substituted on train No. 192. The white fireman who was given the assignment was junior in seniority to Hinton.

The order was directed against the Seaboard Air Line Railroad, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and three of its subordinate lodges in the Norfolk - Portsmouth (Virginia) area.

It enjoins the defendants (1) from denying preference over any regular assigned run held by non-promotable firemen who are otherwise qualified for assignment as helpers on Diesel locomotives, (2) from denying them the opportunity to qualify and, when qualified, to bid for any assignments open on which Diesel power is used, to which they would be entitled by virtue of their seniority, and (3) from denying to any of them who decline or fail to qualify for service as helpers the right to exercise their seniority upon steam assignment.

**NON-PROMOTABLE ERA**  
Under various agreements between railroads in the southeastern section of the United States and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen all colored locomotive firemen are classified as "non-promotable." The only white firemen so classified are those who decline to take or fail to pass the examination for promotion to engineer.

On the basis of his findings of fact, Judge Bryan concluded as a matter of law that provisions in an agreement of May 15, 1942, between the Seaboard and the Brotherhood disqualifying colored

firemen for service as helpers on Diesel locomotives constituted "a discrimination on the basis of race alone" and illegal under the Railway Labor Act.

The provisions in question required that a fireman (helper) on Diesel locomotives used in road or yard service be taken from the ranks of fireman, that in order to be taken from the ranks of fireman for assignment on such locomotives a fireman must be in line of promotion, and that only promotable fireman be accepted as qualified for service on Diesel locomotives.

## VIOLATION OBSERVED

Judge Bryan also concluded that the conduct of the Brotherhood in causing these provisions to be enforced and applied by the Seaboard was in violation of its fiduciary duty as the bargaining representative under the Railway Labor Act of all of the locomotive firemen employed by the Seaboard towards the minority of colored locomotive firemen employed by that railroad and irreparably injured Hinton and other colored locomotive firemen.

The court found that on December 15, last, there were twenty-two white firemen and 105 colored employed by the Seaboard, who were not in line of promotion to engineer.

Judge Bryan also found that the 105 colored firemen were not in line of promotion because the Seaboard has not and does not employ colored men as locomotive firemen. The twenty-two white firemen, he found, were not in line of promotion because they had previously waived promotion to the position of engineer, at a time when such waiver of promotion was permitted.

At the time of his displacement, Hinton was holding a regular assignment as locomotive fireman on passenger trains Nos. 192 and 5 between Raleigh and Richmond, Va.

Judge Bryan fixed bond in the sum of \$2,500 as security for the payment of court costs and any damages that may be suffered by the Seaboard or the Brotherhood if found wrongfully enjoined by his order. The case was set for trial here January 27, 28, and 29.

Charles H. Houston and Joseph C. Waddy, attorneys of Washington, and Oliver B. Hill, a Richmond attorney represented Hinton.



# White Cop Suspended For Tilt With Waiter

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A white policeman last Saturday was given a 10-day suspension for "conduct unbecoming to an officer" following an argument between the officer and a waiter in a colored cafe the day before.

The suspended officer was Patrolman W. G. Burcham. Acting chief of police Eugene Dillard said the suspension was the outcome of an argument between Burcham and Gus Collins, 27, while the patrolman was off duty. Burcham arrested Collins on charges of selling whiskey without a license. Charges were dismissed the next morning at Burcham's request.

## Temper Brought Arrest

Basis of the suspension Dillard said was that Collins was arrested by Burcham "in a flare of temper."

Collins, a former Chicagoan, told the Defender that Burcham came into the Rustic Grill, Sixth ave. and Lea st., about 2 a. m. Sept. 10, and ordered something to drink. After being served Burcham, dressed in street clothes, is said to have asked if he were expected to pay for it.

Collins said that when told he had to pay, Burcham began getting nasty. An argument followed. In addition to name calling and swearing the customer threatened to arrest Collins, who wasn't convinced he was really a patrolman, the waiter related. According to Collins, Burcham appeared to have been drinking heavily.

Finally to prove his authority Burcham called for policemen at city hall to come and get Collins. the latter revealed. Collins was released under \$50 bond which was later returned.



# Ladies, the Police Dept. wants you!

*Medium*  
The Los Angeles Police Department continues to yearn after women "coppers". Young women who would like to become guardians of the law may file applications in Room 11 of the City Hall any time prior to the closing hour Aug. 5.

*Los Angeles, Calif.*  
If the ladies are between the ages of 23 and 30, inclusive, and otherwise qualify, they may sign up for the written examination which will be conducted Aug. 14.

Women receive the same pay as men officers, starting at \$260.00 a month. Full pay is given even while the candidates are in recruit training. Automatic pay increases are made at the end of each year for three years, giving the women and men officers top pay of \$315.00 a month. *7-24-48*

For additional particulars, candidates can obtain information at any local police station or directly from Civil Service headquarters in the downtown City Hall.

## EDITORIAL

*The County Bulletin*  
*Thurs 7-8-48*  
**OFFICIALS AGAINST NEGROES**  
*San Bernardino, Calif.*

An investigation launched by the BULLETIN revealed that there are two members of City Council who are definitely opposed to the appointment of another Negro on the local police force.

A goodly number of new men are to be named, but these two councilmen, we understand from very reliable sources, will not approve them if one is to be a Negro.

The names of these council members will be exposed not only to the electorate, but also to the large number of Negroes who do business with them.

Mayor James E. Cunningham is quite willing to add another Negro officer to the force once he has passed the Civil Service test. It is now up to us to get qualified Negroes who are desirous of being policemen to study hard, not only pass the examination, but make an extreme effort to place high in the top brackets of the results.

Since no Negro has qualified presently, there is very little fighting that we can do.

It has long since been known that we have representatives in Council who should be City Fathers in Georgia and

Mississippi, Texas and Oklahoma and not fast-growing, progressive San Bernardino. *7-8-48*

The BULLETIN has always fought for fair representation and will continue to do so. Those who stand in the way of progress must be exposed and eliminated.

Officer Johnnie Epps' record on the force is an encouraging example for us to fight for his partner.

J. ROBERT SMITH

Editor



# Fort Worth Opens Civil Service Doors to Race Policemen, Firemen

*See Courier*  
*Set 3-6-48*  
**Five Negroes Taking Exams for Posts in Police and Fire Departments for First Time in City's History**

*Pittsburgh, Pa.*  
**By ALMITA S. ROBINSON**

FORT WORTH Tex.—For the first time in its history Fort Worth will have Negroes among those taking the examination Saturday for positions as city policemen. This opportunity is the result of a recently established Civil Service set-up for policemen and firemen in Fort Worth.

Following an alert given by Dr. Frank Rivers Barnwell, local official of the Interracial Commission of Texas, G. W. Williams, president of the Fort Worth Council for a Permanent FEPC, contacted Civil Service Director Hurley and secured information on proper procedure.

With the cooperation of other citizens, he then rounded up some fourteen prospective persons and instructed them on procedure. Five out of the fourteen will take the examination.

## WILL CERTIFY THOSE WITH HIGHEST GRADE

Director Hurley has made it plain that he will certify for appointment the persons making the highest grades without regard to race.

Fort Worth is one of the largest cities in Texas that does not have Negro policemen and firemen as the City Council has followed a policy of not employing Negroes, although there was no legal ground for denying them this right.

In 1946 a petition from the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance, and other organizations, for Negro policemen in Fort Worth was turned down on the basis that, allegedly, reports from other cities held that Negroes did not make good policemen and that the chief of police, R. E. Dysart, said that policemen could not work effectively unless they had the right to arrest anyone and that Negro policemen would be restricted to making arrests among their own people, only.

## SEVEN VACANCIES

Seven vacancies are to be filled. The five Negroes applying are Arthur Pollard of Texas College, Ollice Malloy Thomas, instructor at Terrell High School and a graduate of Wiley College; his brother, Lawrence L. Thomas, graduate of Wiley; Robert B. Howard, Prairie View, and Edward L. Willis, graduate of Lincoln University. Mr. Willis is former Boys' Work Secretary of the McDonald Branch YMCA.